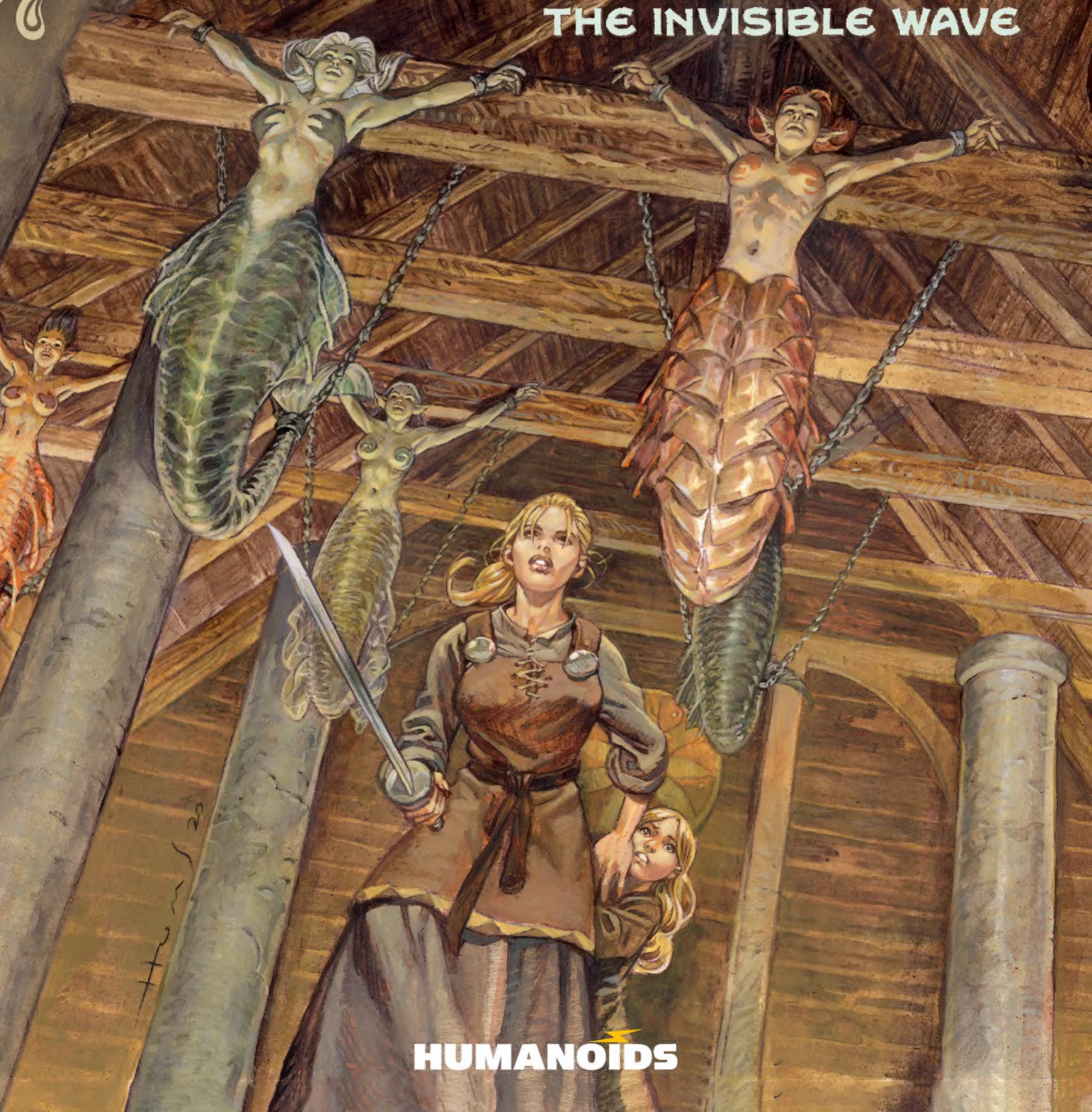


# SIRENS OF THE NORSE SEA

GIHEF, MITRIC, PASTORE  
PERIFANO, TRIFOGLI  
& BARDIAUX-VAIENTE

THE INVISIBLE WAVE



HUMANOID



# THE INVISIBLE WAVE







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Library of Congress Control Number: 2020946706

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THE ICY WATERS OF THE NORSE  
COAST, 9TH CENTURY A.D....



THIS CANNOT CONTINUE!  
SOMETHING HAS TO BE  
DONE ABOUT HRINN!

MY BLOOD  
FREEZES  
EVERY TIME SHE  
SPRINGS OUT OF  
NOWHERE...



AND YOU, KOLGA?  
WHAT DO YOU THINK  
OF OUR SISTER?

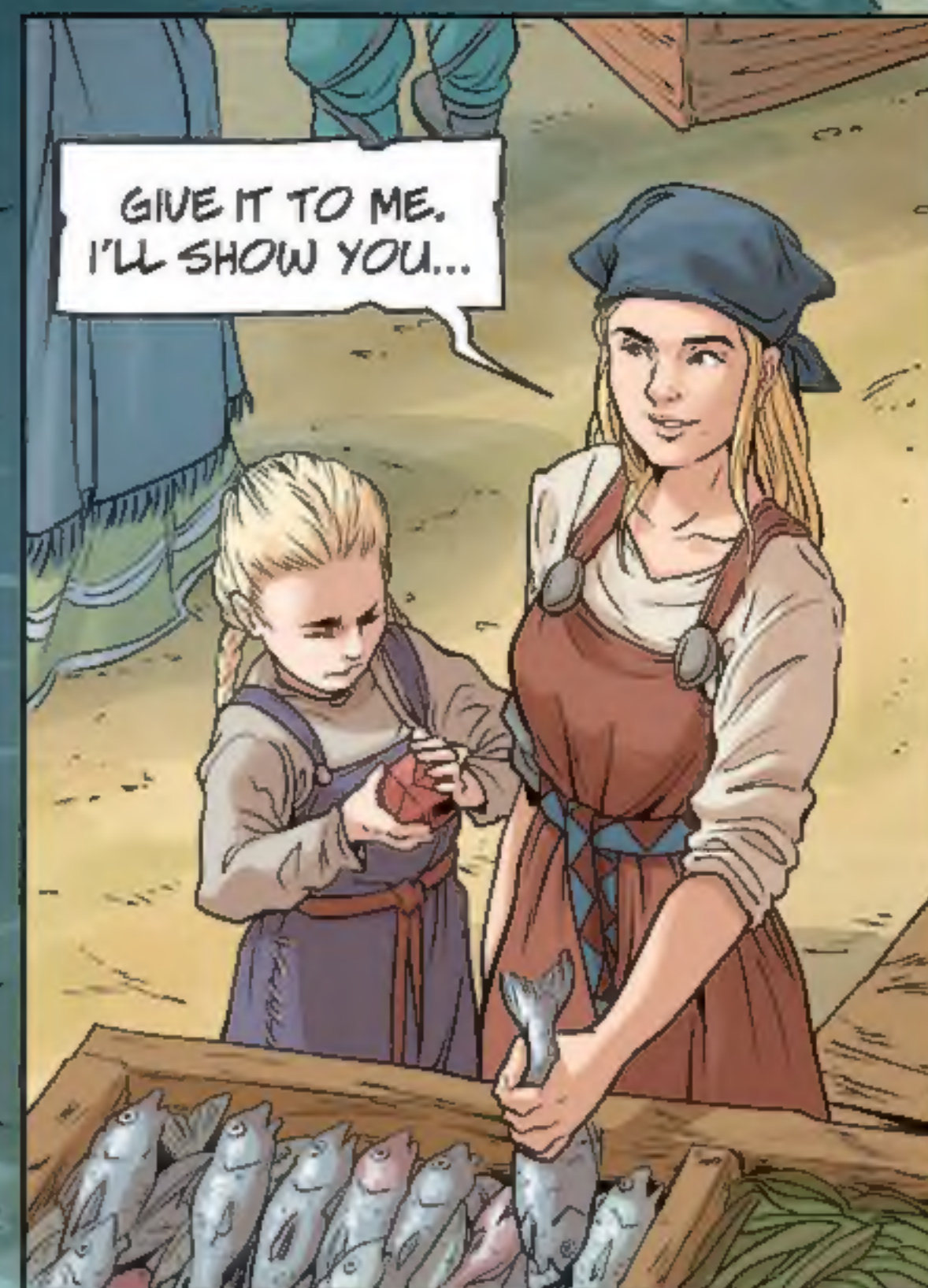


"HER GIFT IS SO DANGEROUS THAT ONE  
DAY SHE COULD RAIN DESTRUCTION  
DOWN UPON ALL OF US!"





ARGH! I CAN'T  
DO IT...



GIVE IT TO ME.  
I'LL SHOW YOU...



HERE, MOMMY. I  
BET EVEN YOU CAN'T  
DO THIS ONE!

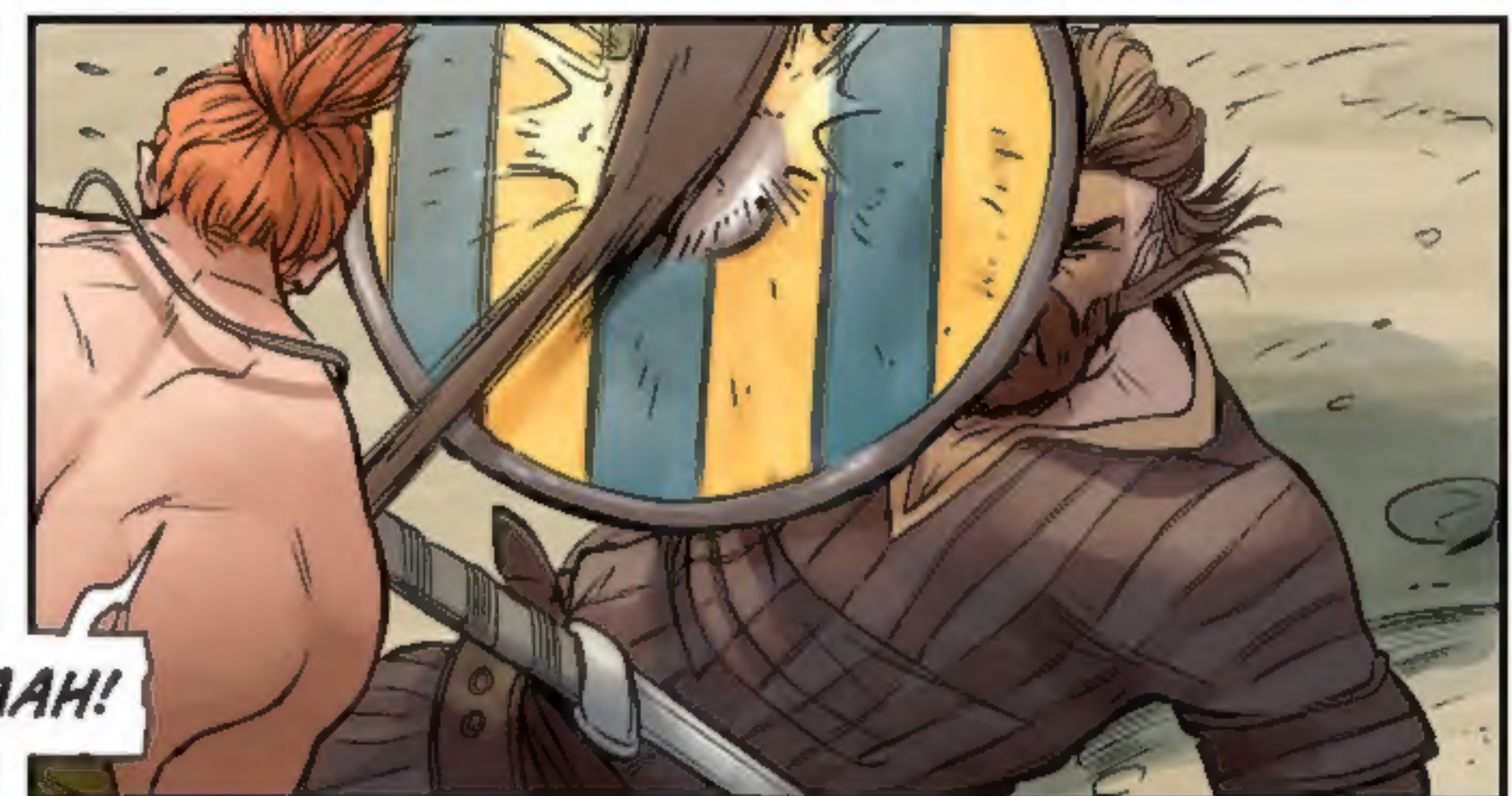
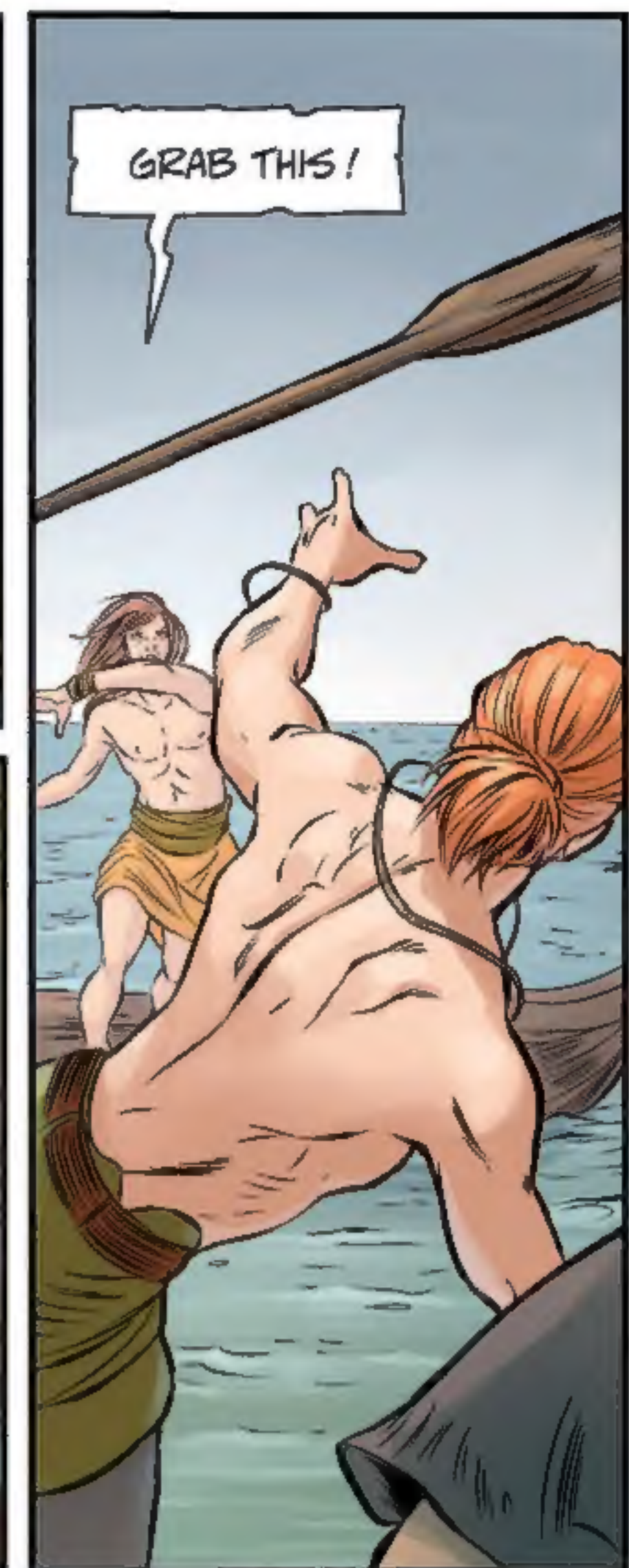
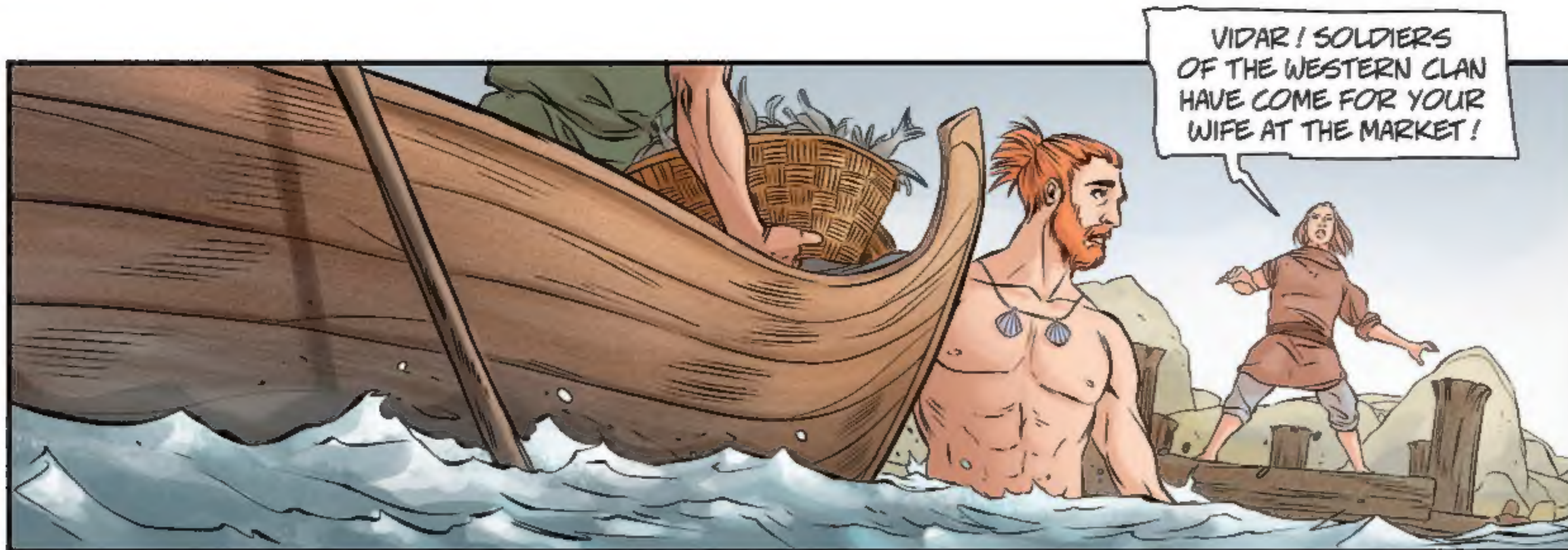


THERE YOU GO!  
IT WAS PRETTY  
EASY... HAHA!



LYDVEIG, DAUGHTER  
OF AASBJORN THE  
TRACKER, COME WITH  
US! KING HARDEKNUD  
WANTS TO SEE YOU.









WHY DID YOU BEHEAD MY FATHER?

MOMMY? THAT... WAS GRANDDAD?!

YES, TOVA.

BUT... BUT YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME HE WAS DEAD!

HE'D BEEN DEAD TO ME FOR A LONG TIME.

YOUR FATHER WASN'T SLAIN BY A VIKING... A SIREN SAW TO THAT.

AASBJORN'S ONLY INTEREST IN THOSE CREATURES WAS IN KILLING THEM IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE.

THAT'S RIGHT. HE WAS AFTER THE SIREN WHO BUTCHERED PRINCE SWENBORG.

LOOKS LIKE THE OLD TRACKER GOT A BIT TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH.

WHAT'S IT TO DO WITH ME AND MY FAMILY?

SAVE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE KING. LET'S SEE HOW MOUTHY YOU'LL BE IN FRONT OF HIM!







KING HARDEKNUD, I WAS DEEPLY SORRY TO LEARN OF YOUR SON'S DEATH...



I KNOW THAT YOU HIRED MY FATHER'S SERVICES AND THAT HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR IT, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM FOR YEARS.

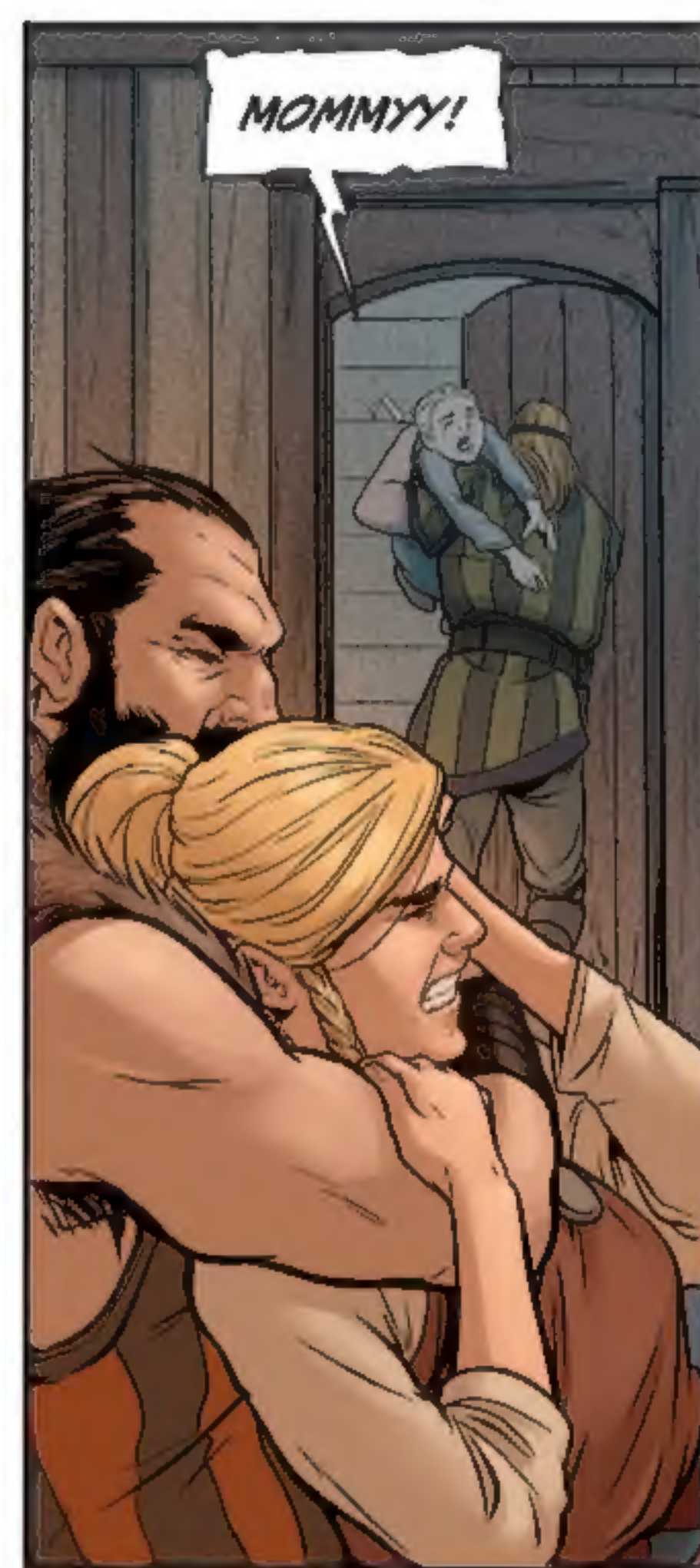


PLEASE, ALLOW US TO GO BACK TO MY POOR HUSBAND. HE WAS WOUNDED BY YOUR MEN...



MOMMY?!

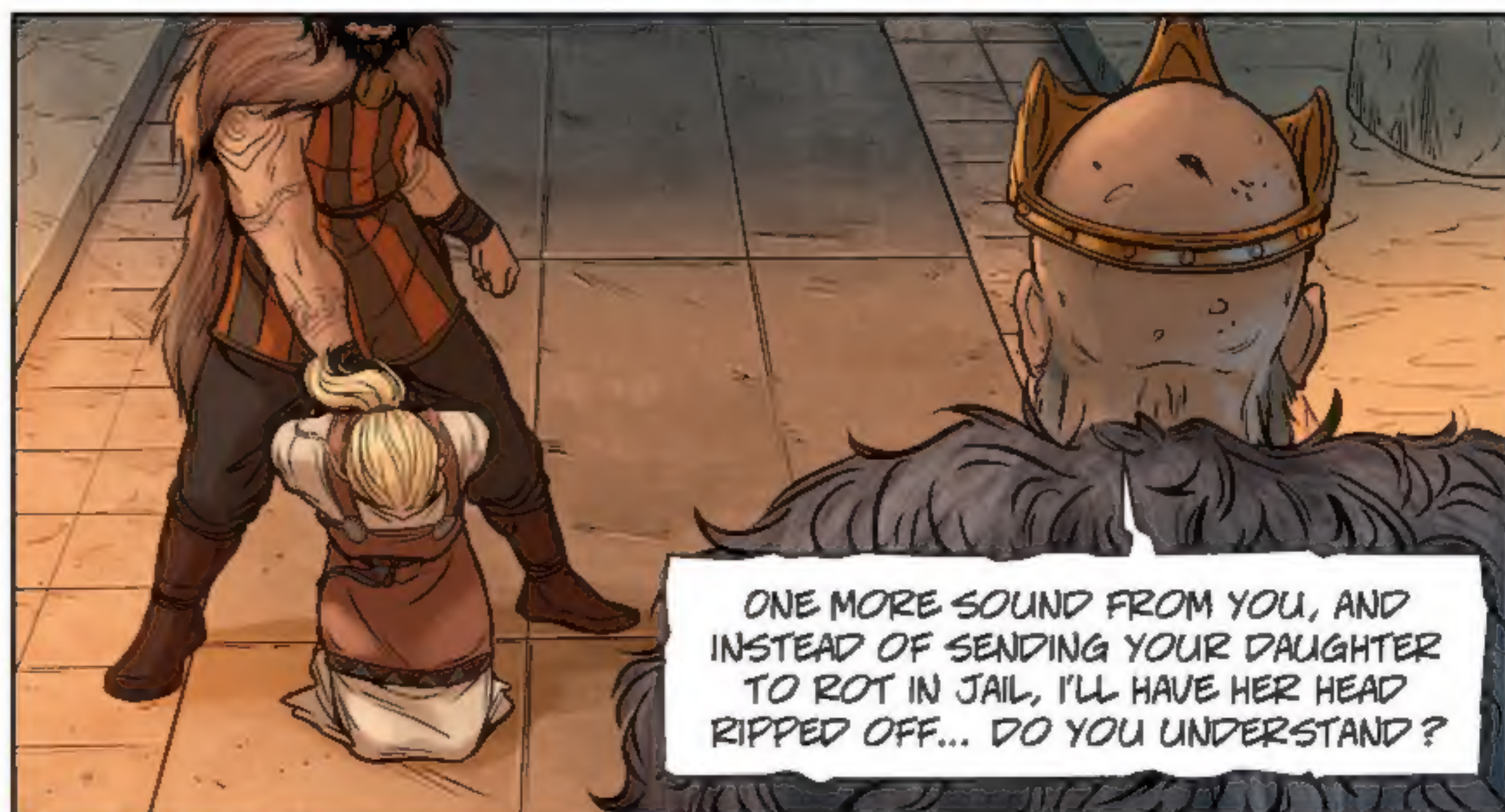
NO! LEAVE MY DAUGHTER ALONE! TOYAAA!



MOMMY!

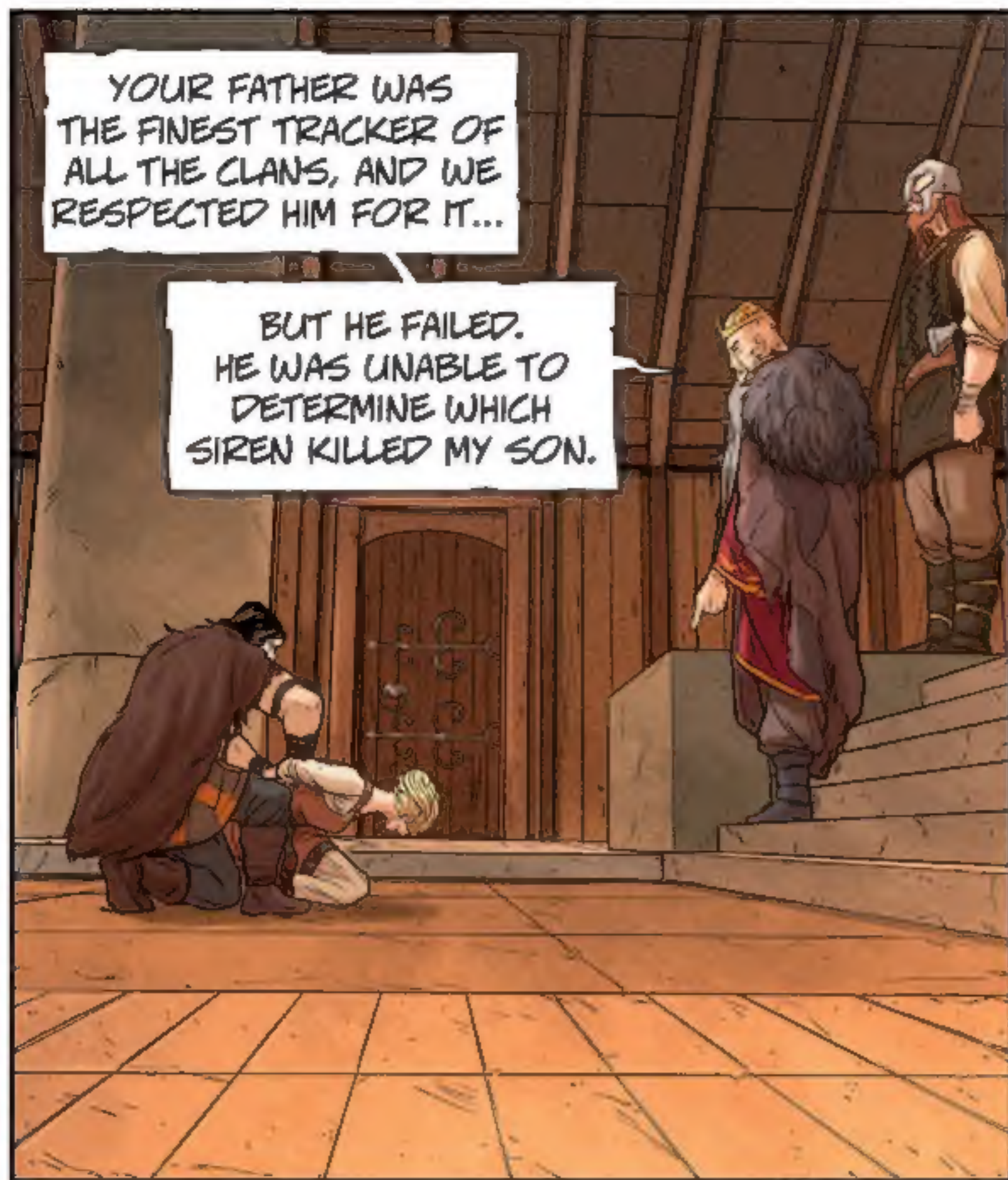


ONLY I MAY SPEAK IN THIS ROOM!



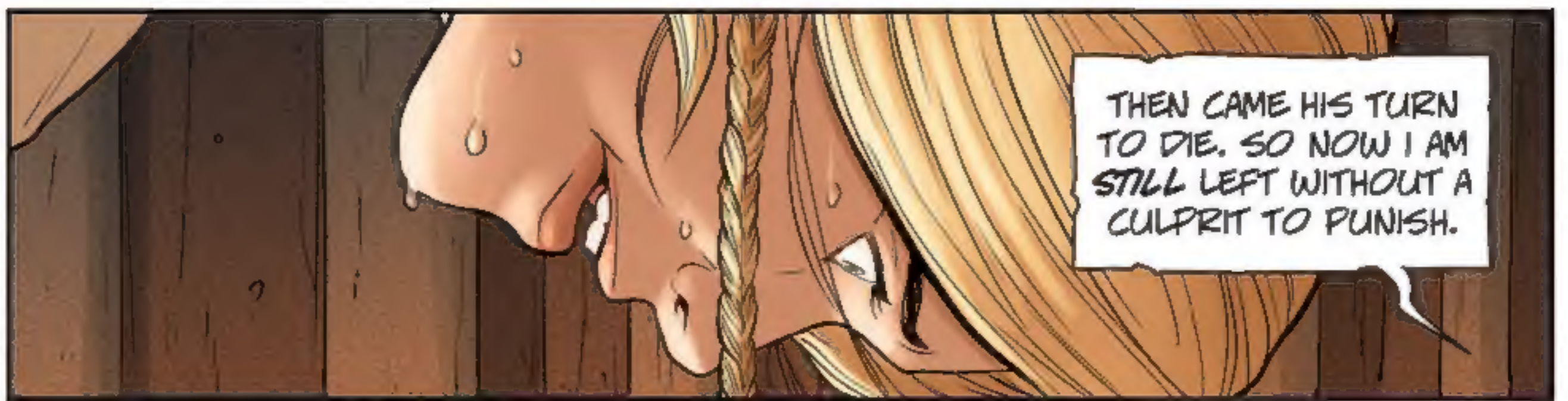
ONE MORE SOUND FROM YOU, AND INSTEAD OF SENDING YOUR DAUGHTER TO ROT IN JAIL, I'LL HAVE HER HEAD RIPPED OFF... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?





YOUR FATHER WAS THE FINEST TRACKER OF ALL THE CLANS, AND WE RESPECTED HIM FOR IT...

BUT HE FAILED. HE WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHICH SIREN KILLED MY SON.



THEN CAME HIS TURN TO DIE. SO NOW I AM STILL LEFT WITHOUT A CULPRIT TO PUNISH.



YOUR PETTY FAMILY SQUABBLES ARE OF NO INTEREST TO ME! HE SWORE A BLOOD OATH TO FIND THAT SIREN, AND YOU ARE HIS SOLE HEIR...



EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU LEARNT HIS TRADE AND WORKED BESIDE HIM FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS.

NOW REMEMBER WHAT HE TAUGHT YOU AND FIND OUT WHICH OF THE SIRENS KILLED MY SON.



OUR CLAN IS FEARED ABOVE ALL THE REST, FOR MY ANCESTORS AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES EVER TO HAVE KILLED AT LEAST ONE SPECIMEN FROM EACH FAMILY OF THESE AQUATIC ABOMINATIONS!



EVEN THOUGH I WOULD LOVE TO SLAUGHTER EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM, THEY ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY IN NUMBER...

BUT MY SON **MUST** BE AVENGED, AND I HAVE ENOUGH WARRIORS TO EXTERMINATE AT LEAST ONE ENTIRE CASTE OF THEM!

YOU WILL GO TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, MEET JORUND, MY SECOND SON, AND IF YOU ARE NOT BACK IN TEN DAYS TO TELL ME WHICH CASTE TO MASSACRE WITH OUR HARPOONS...

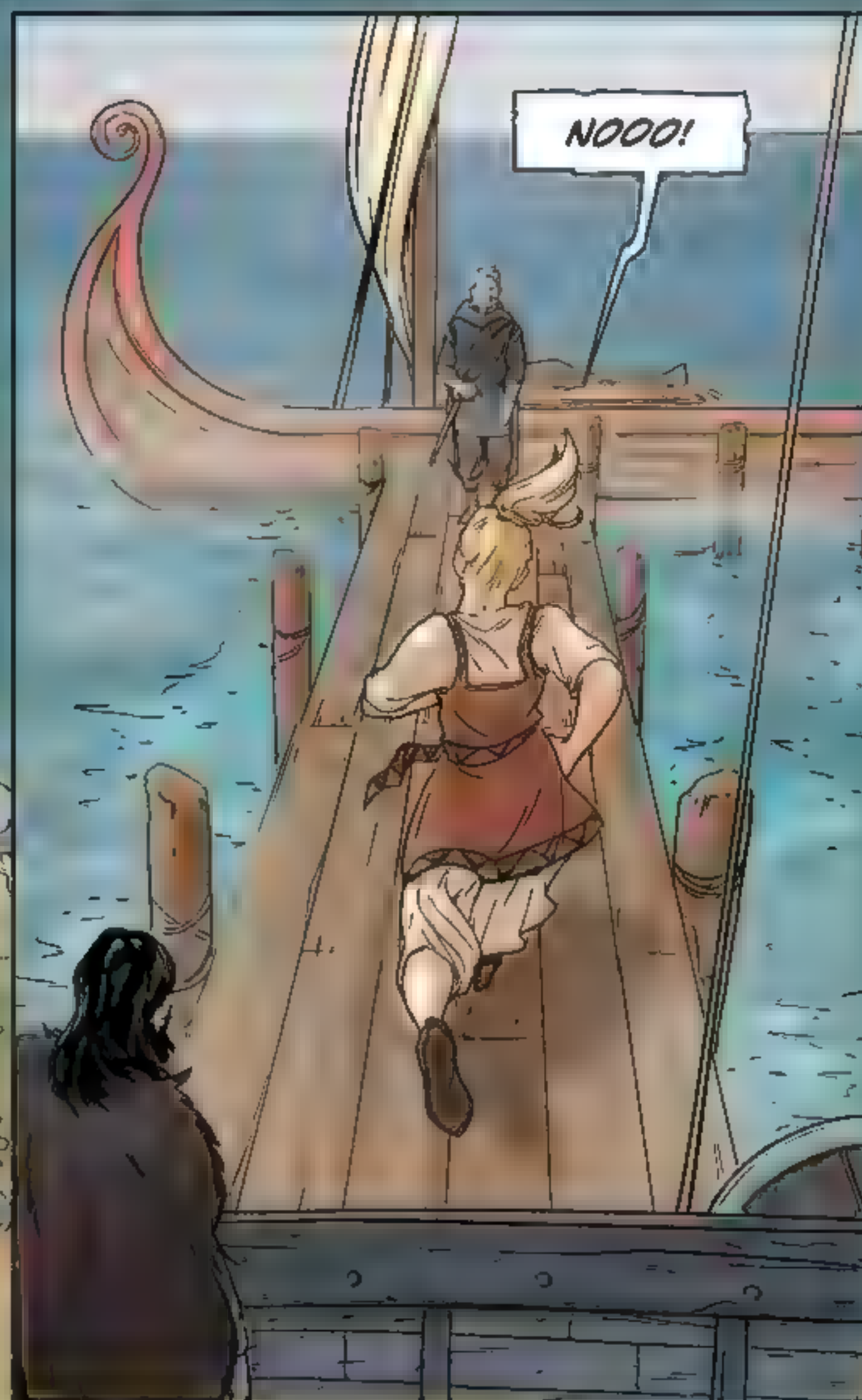
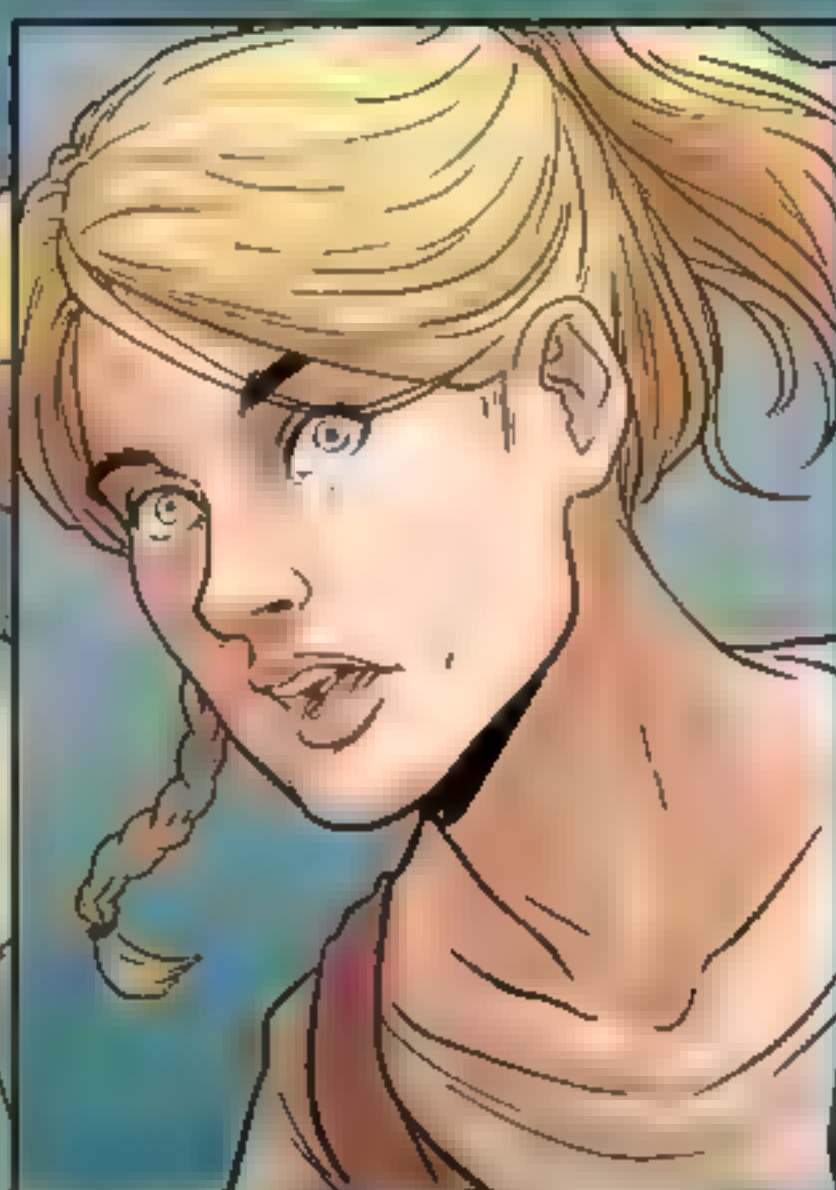
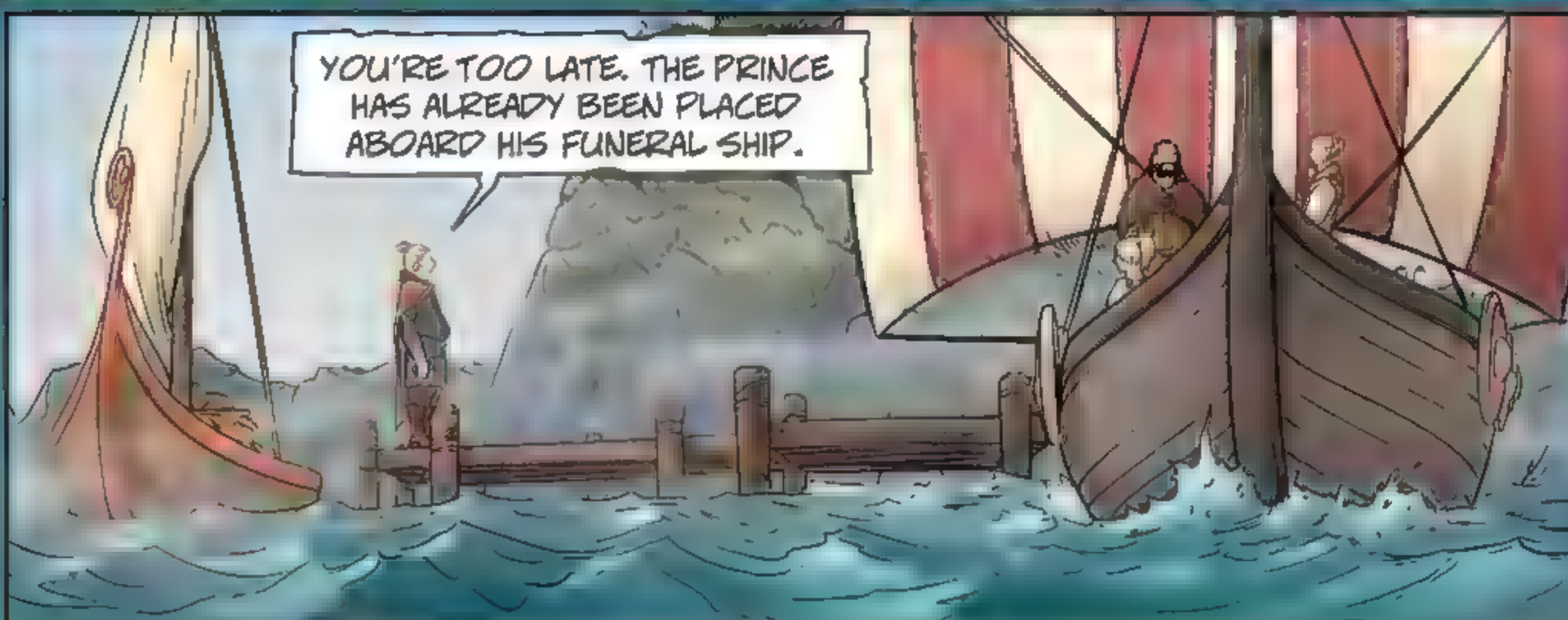
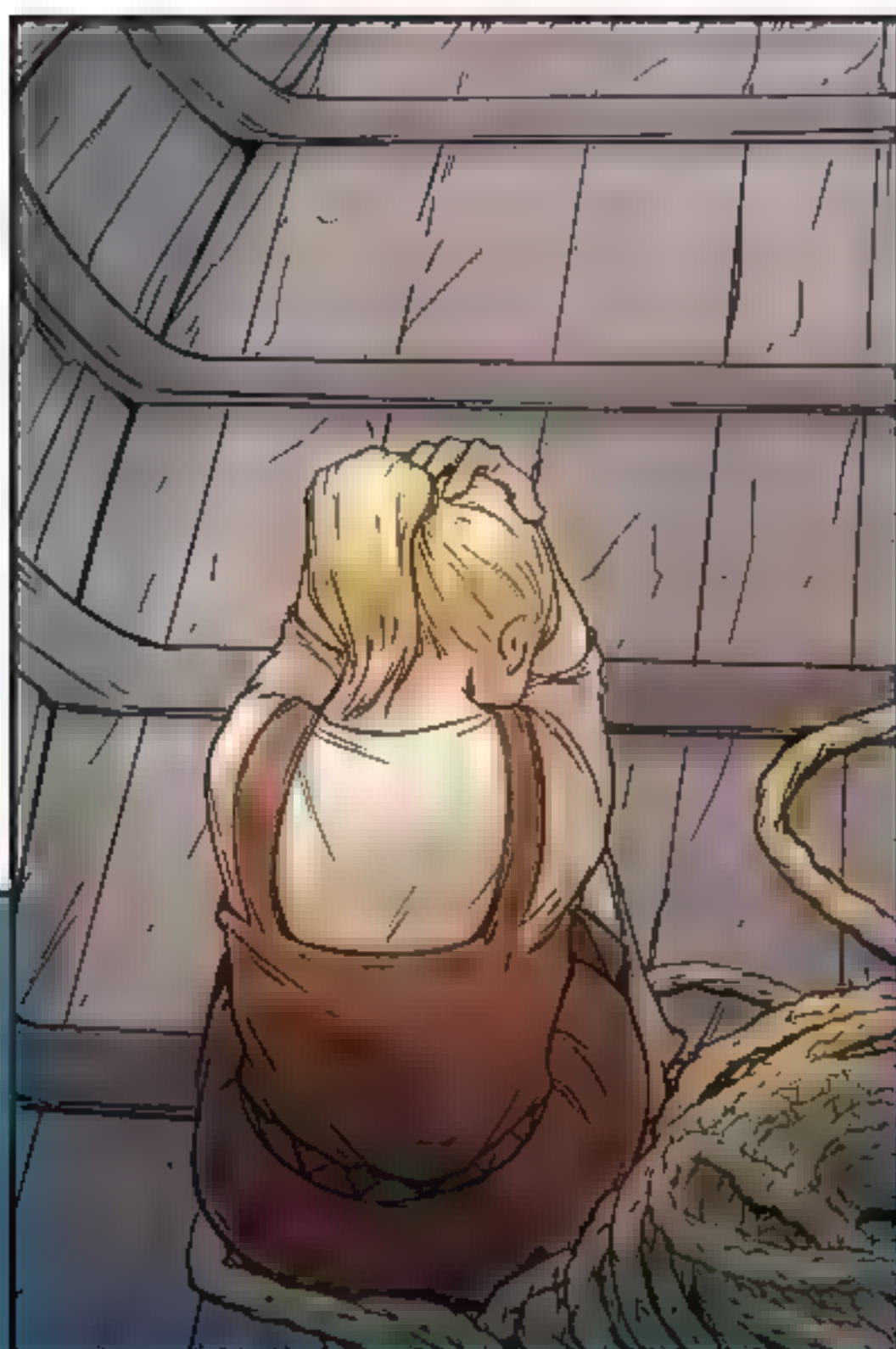


...I WILL PIERCE YOUR DAUGHTER'S HEART WITH THIS ONE!

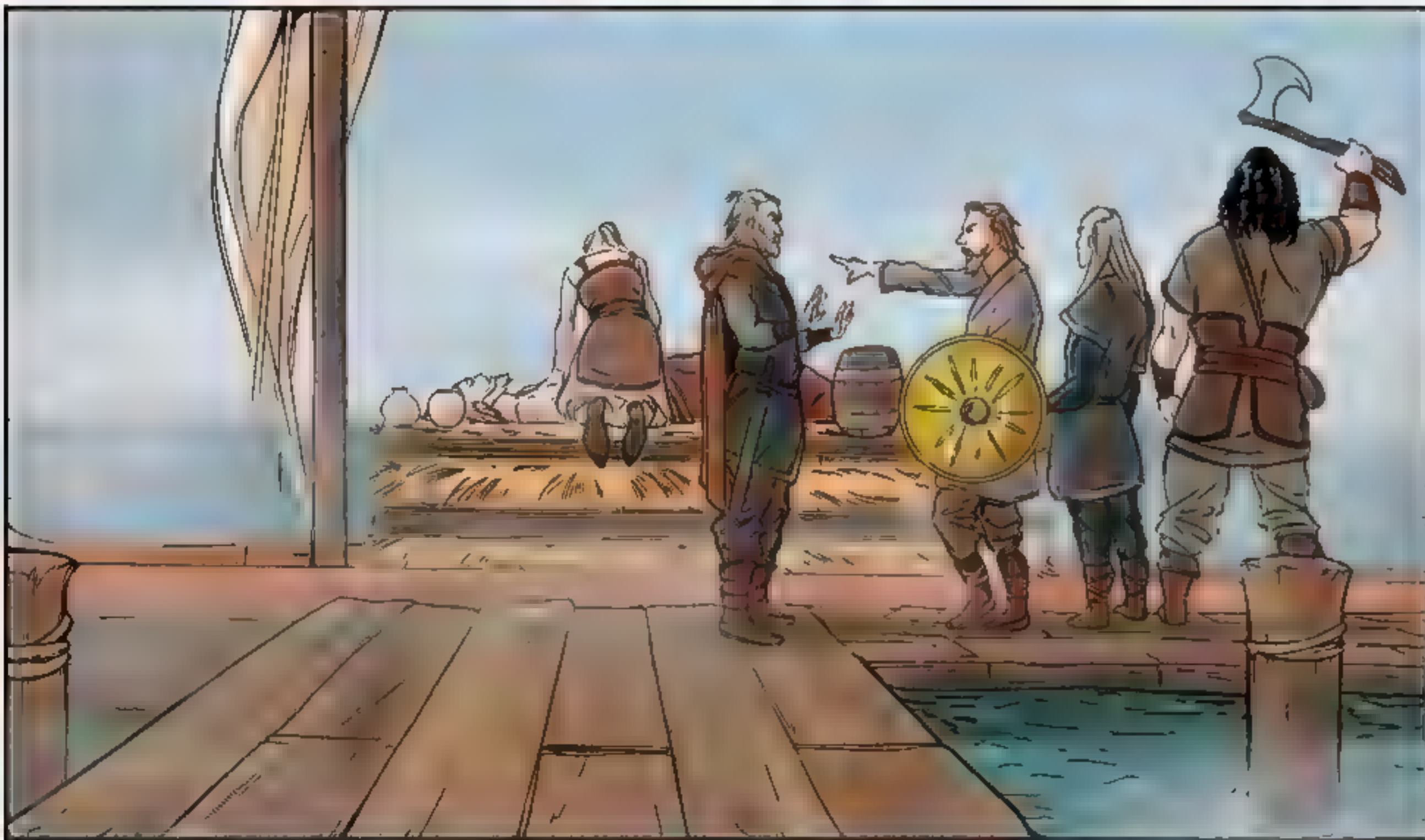
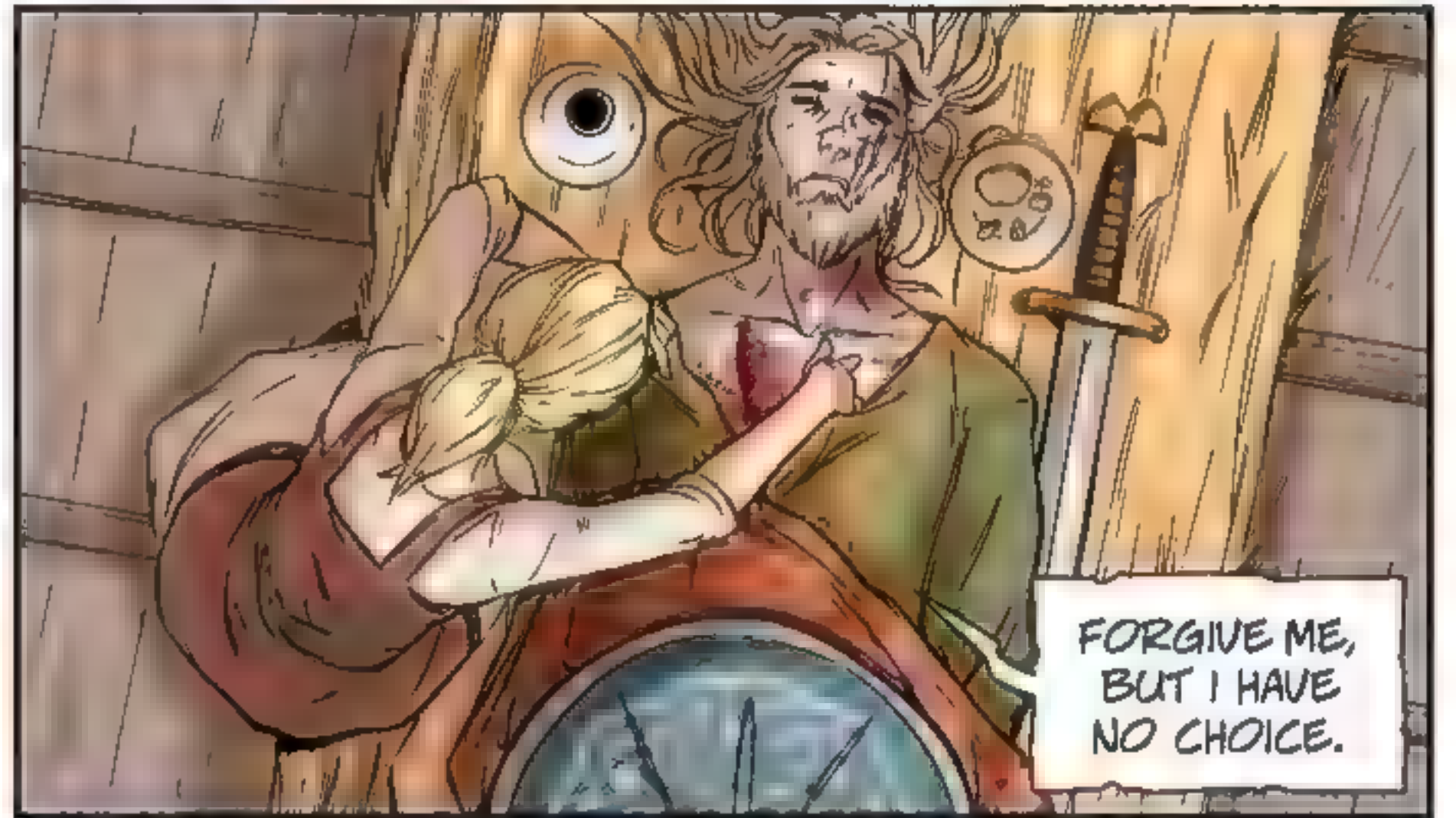


TAKE HER AWAY!

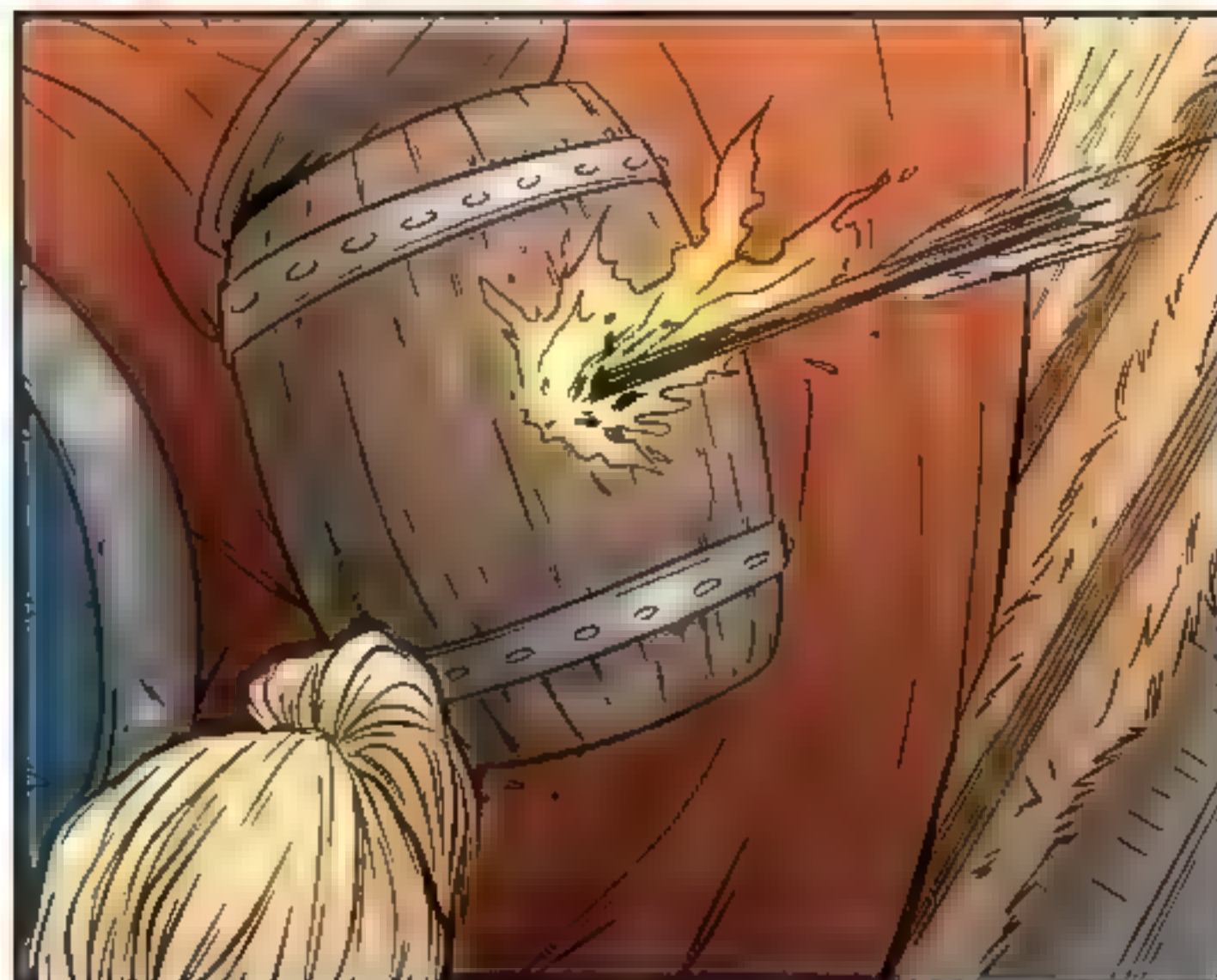
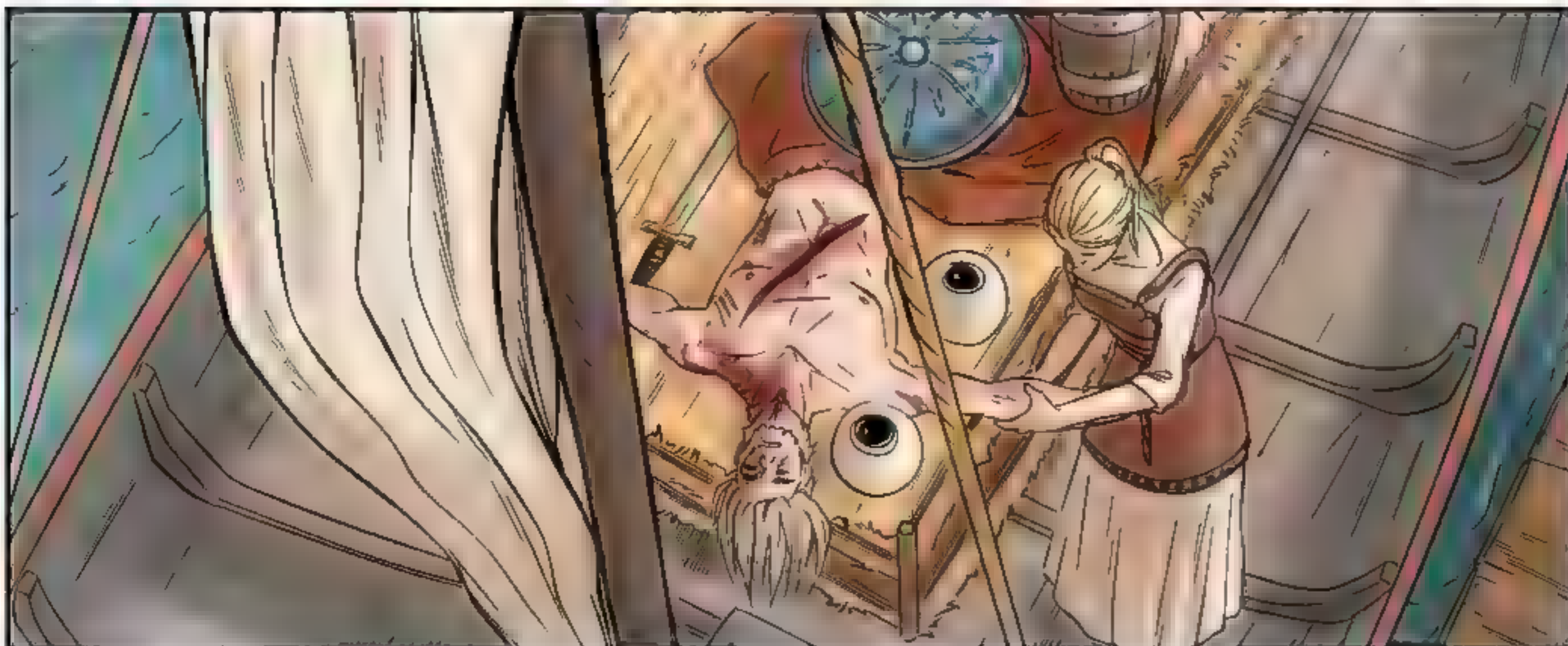
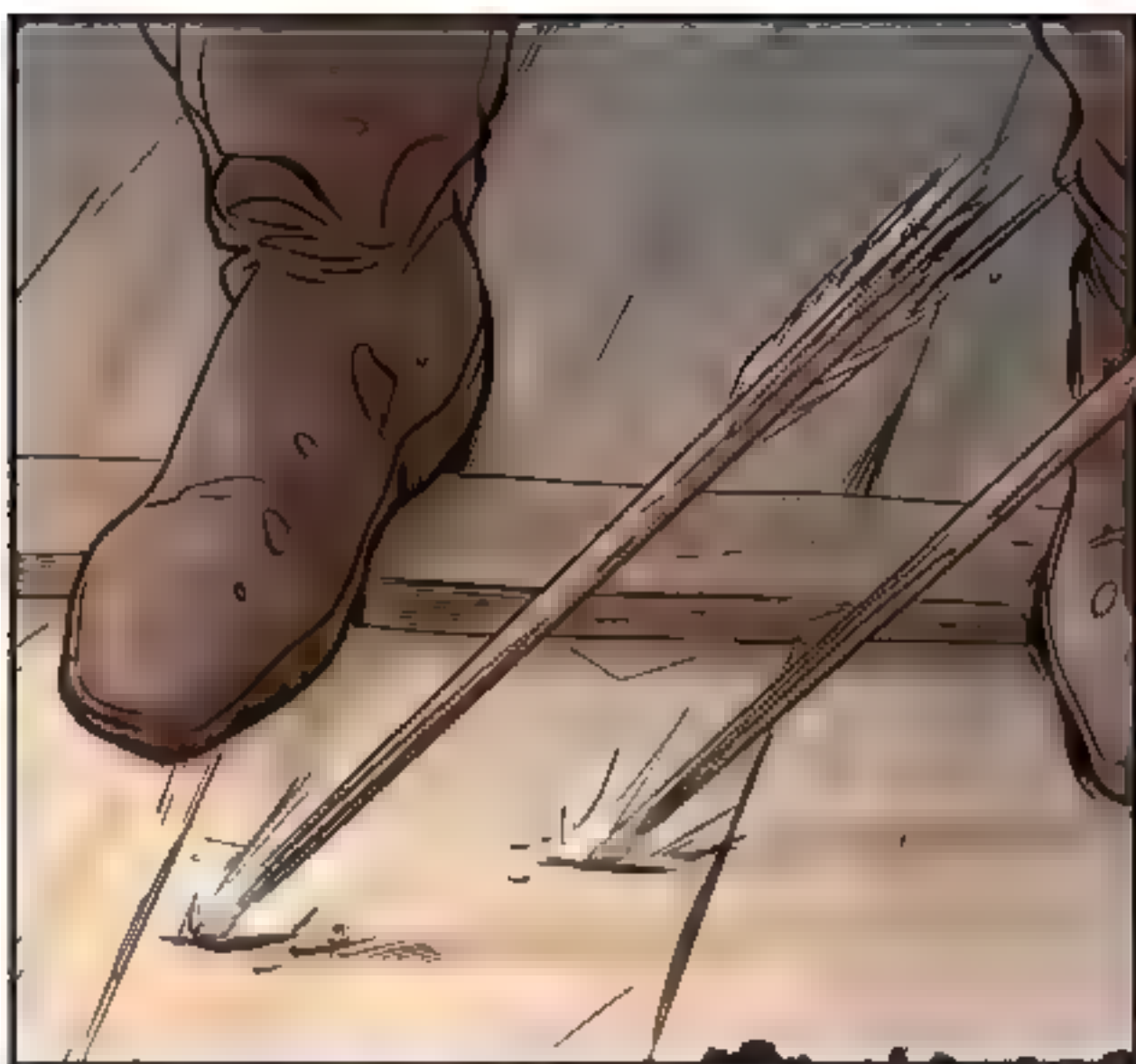




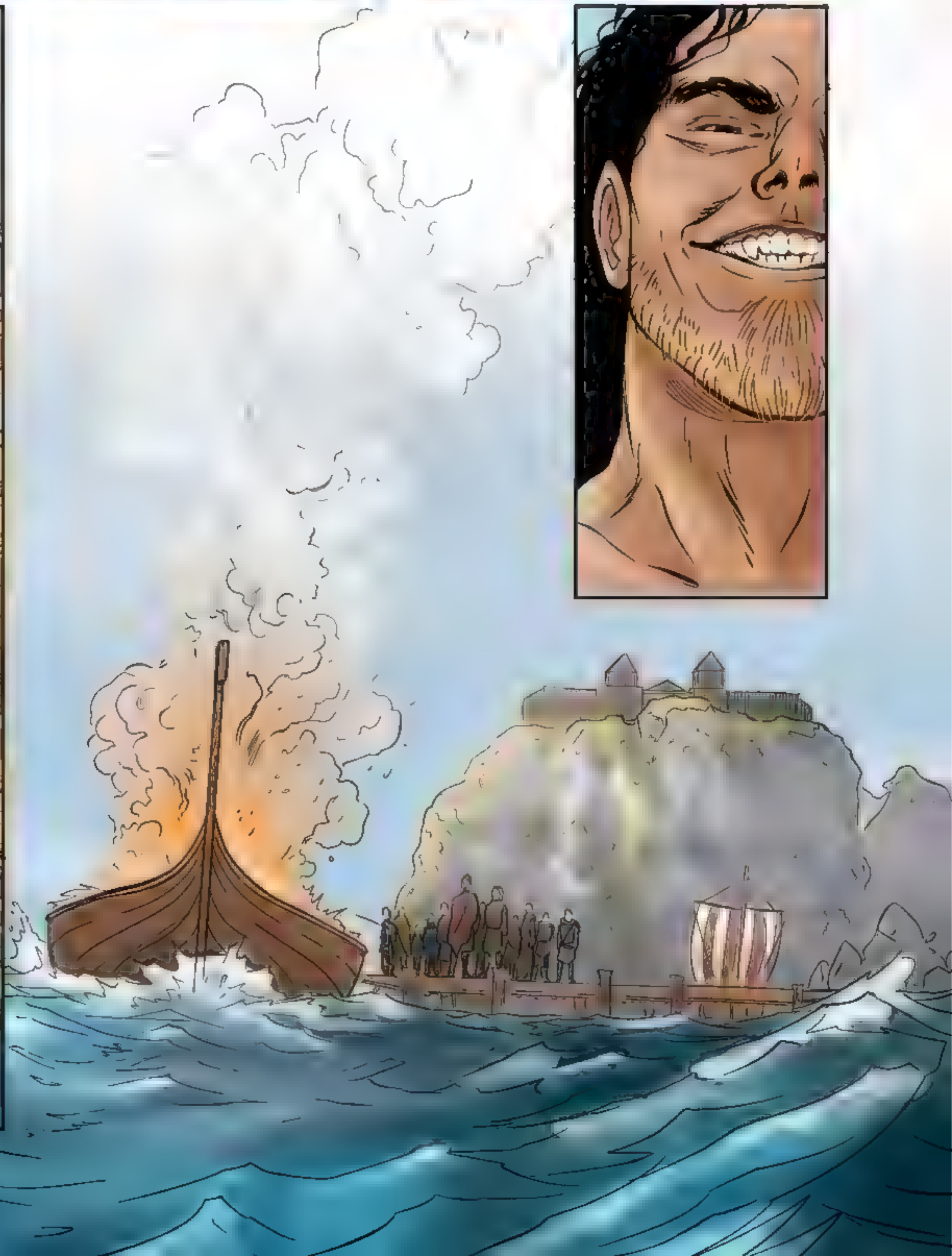
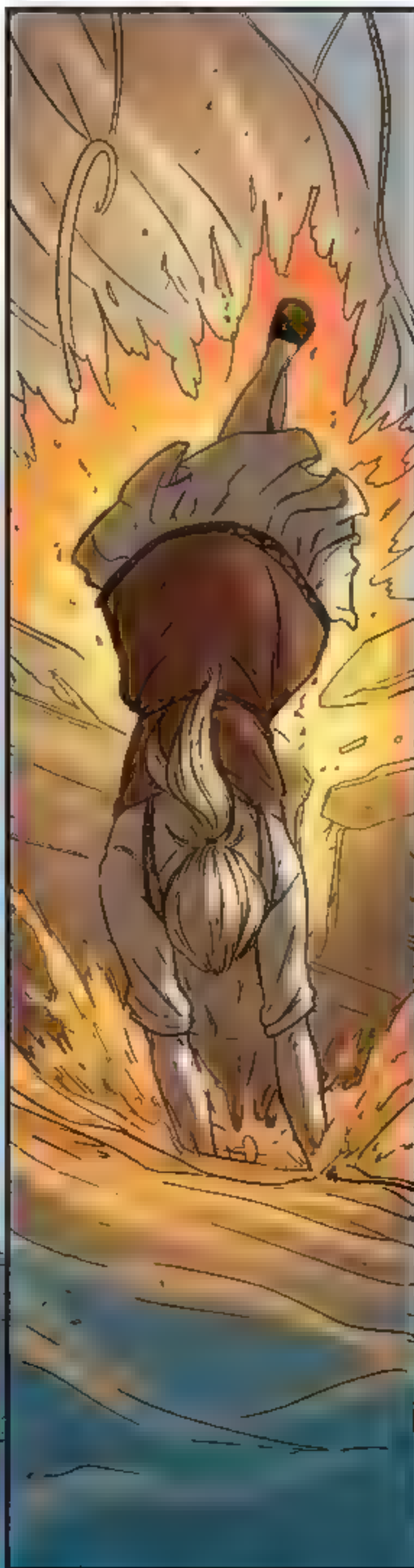
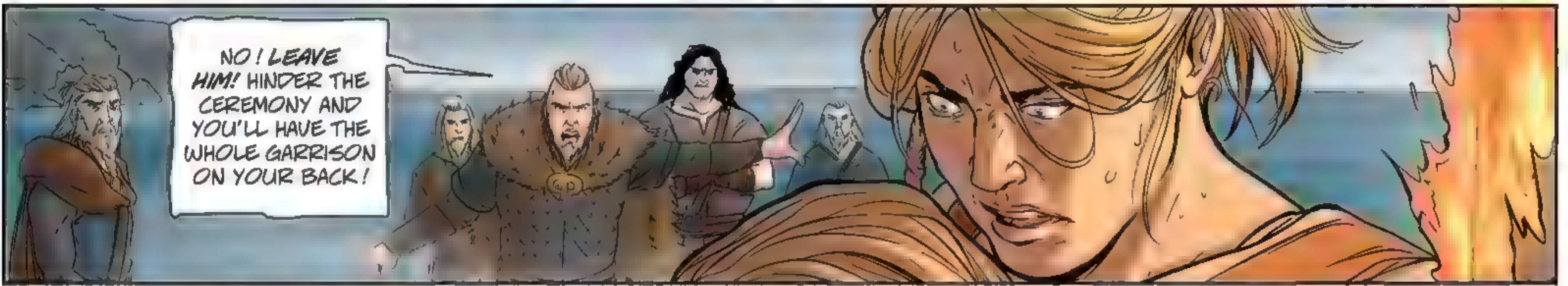
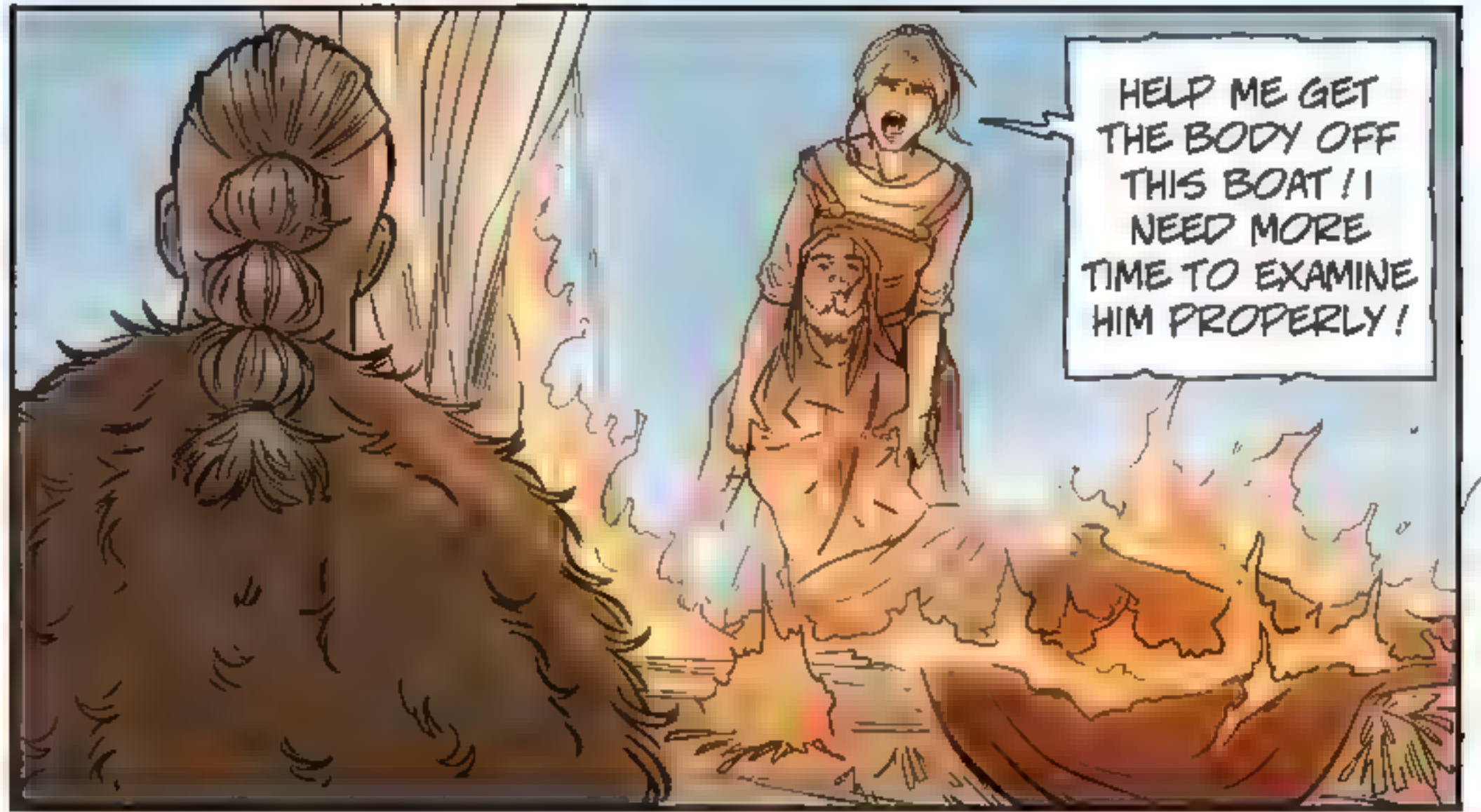
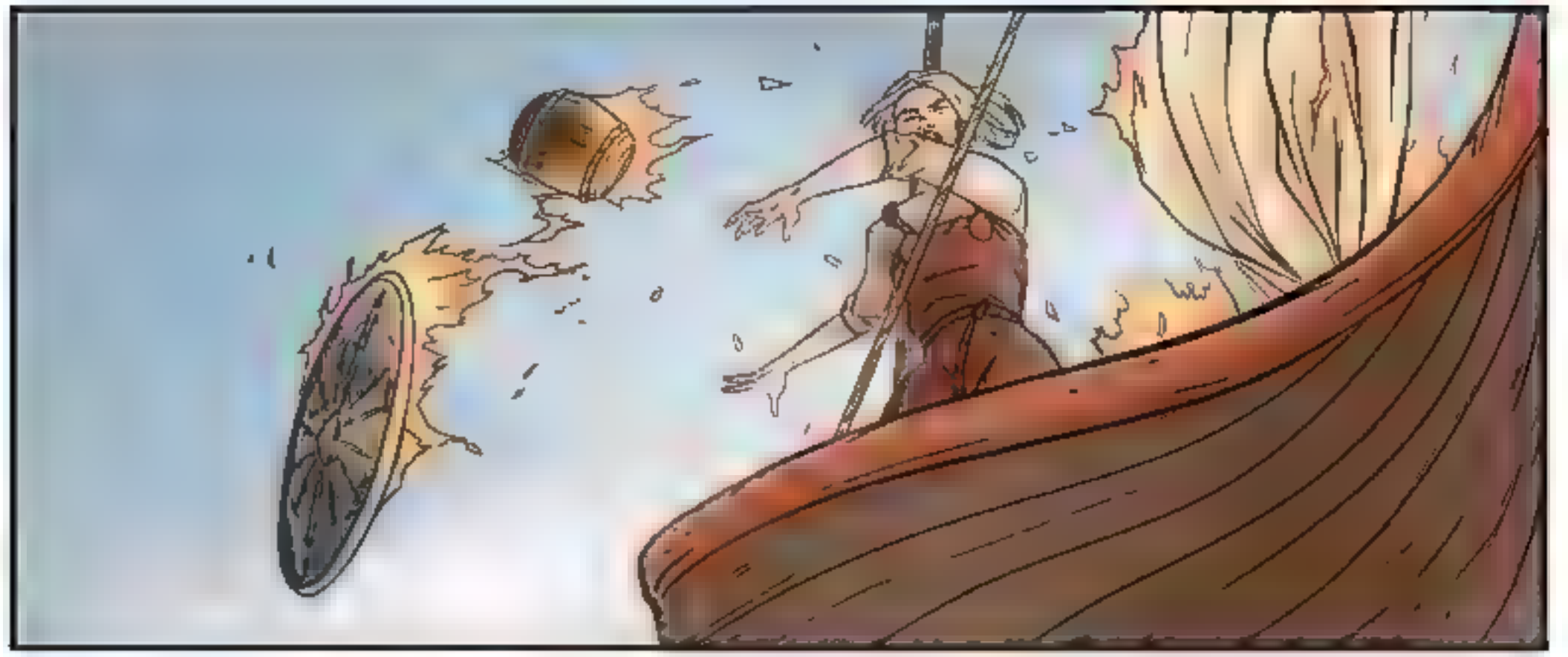




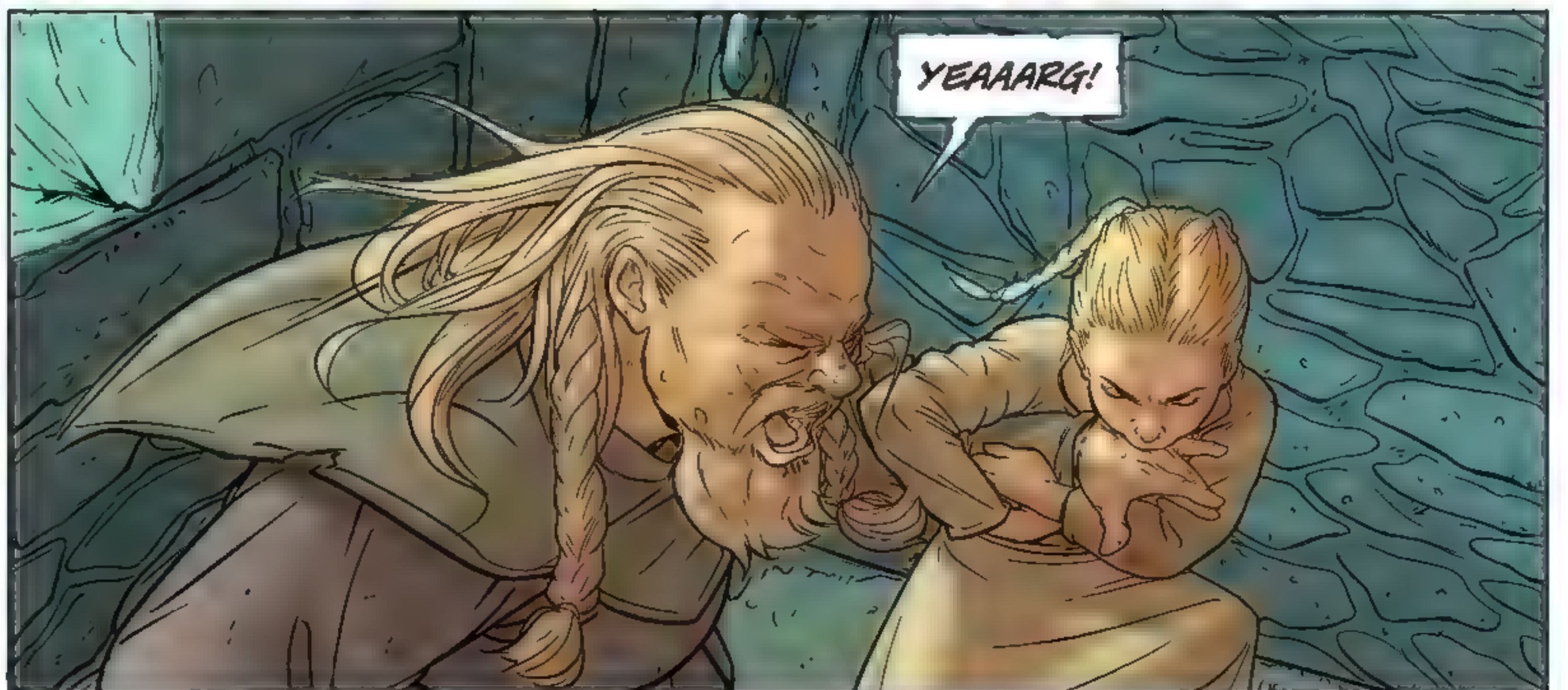
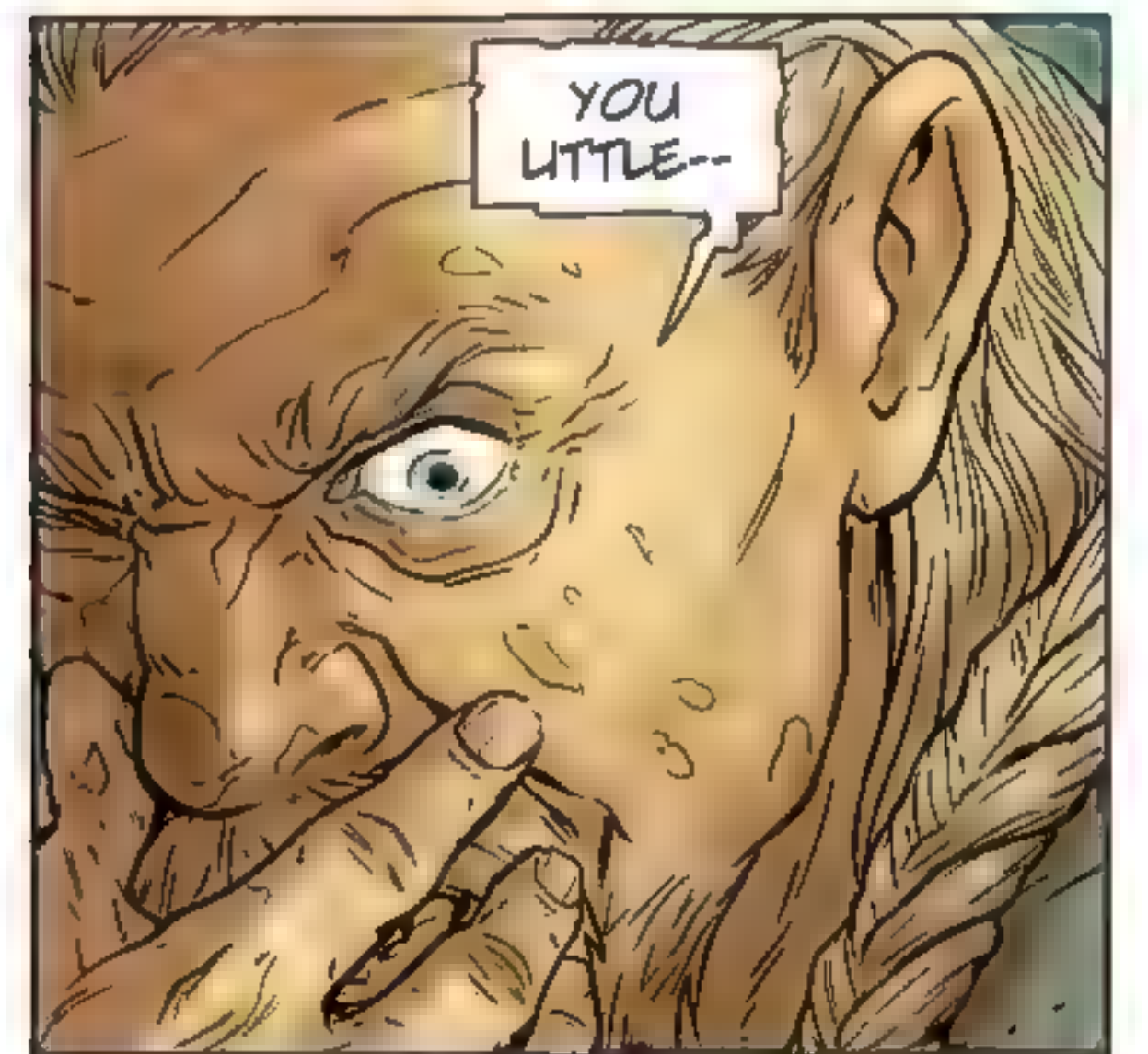
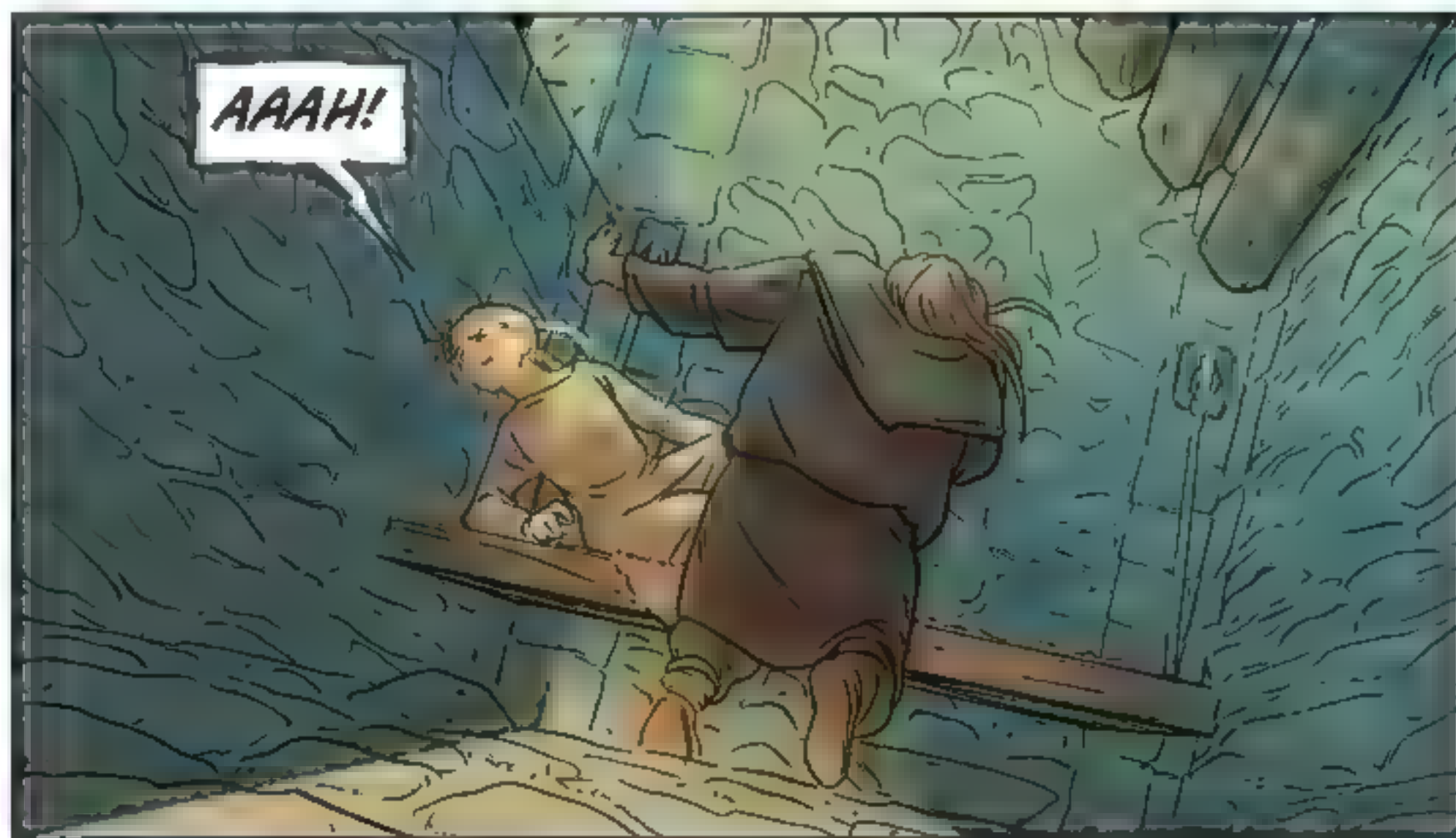
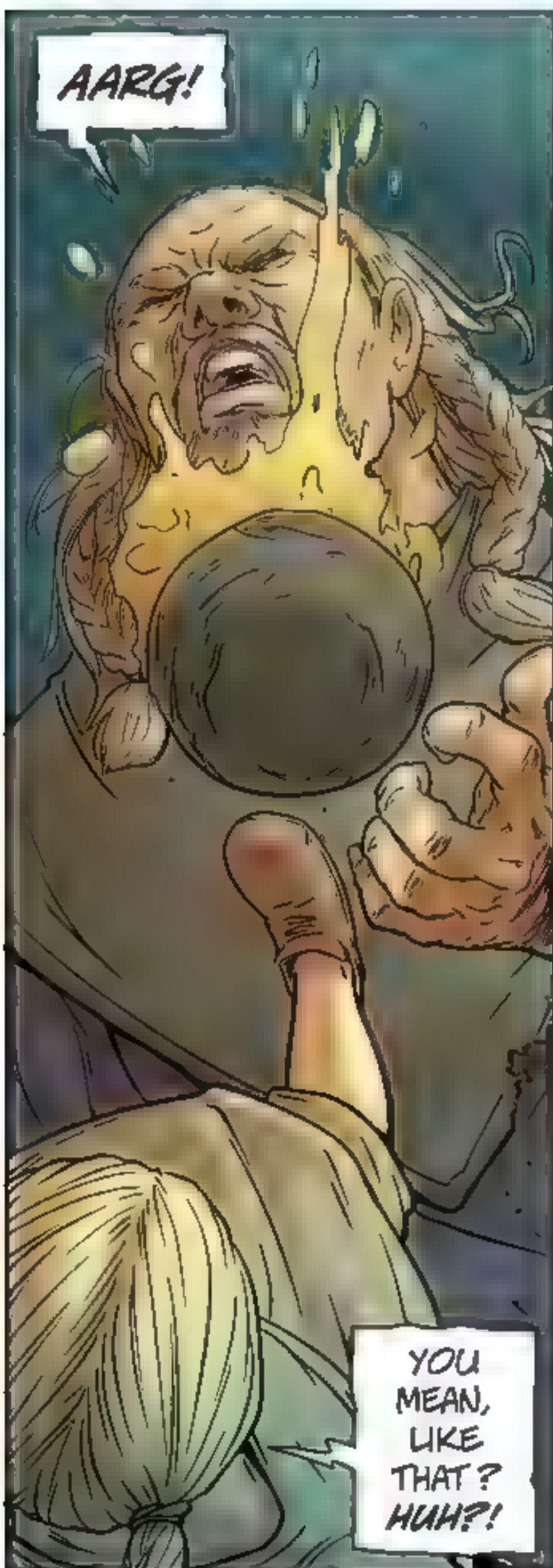
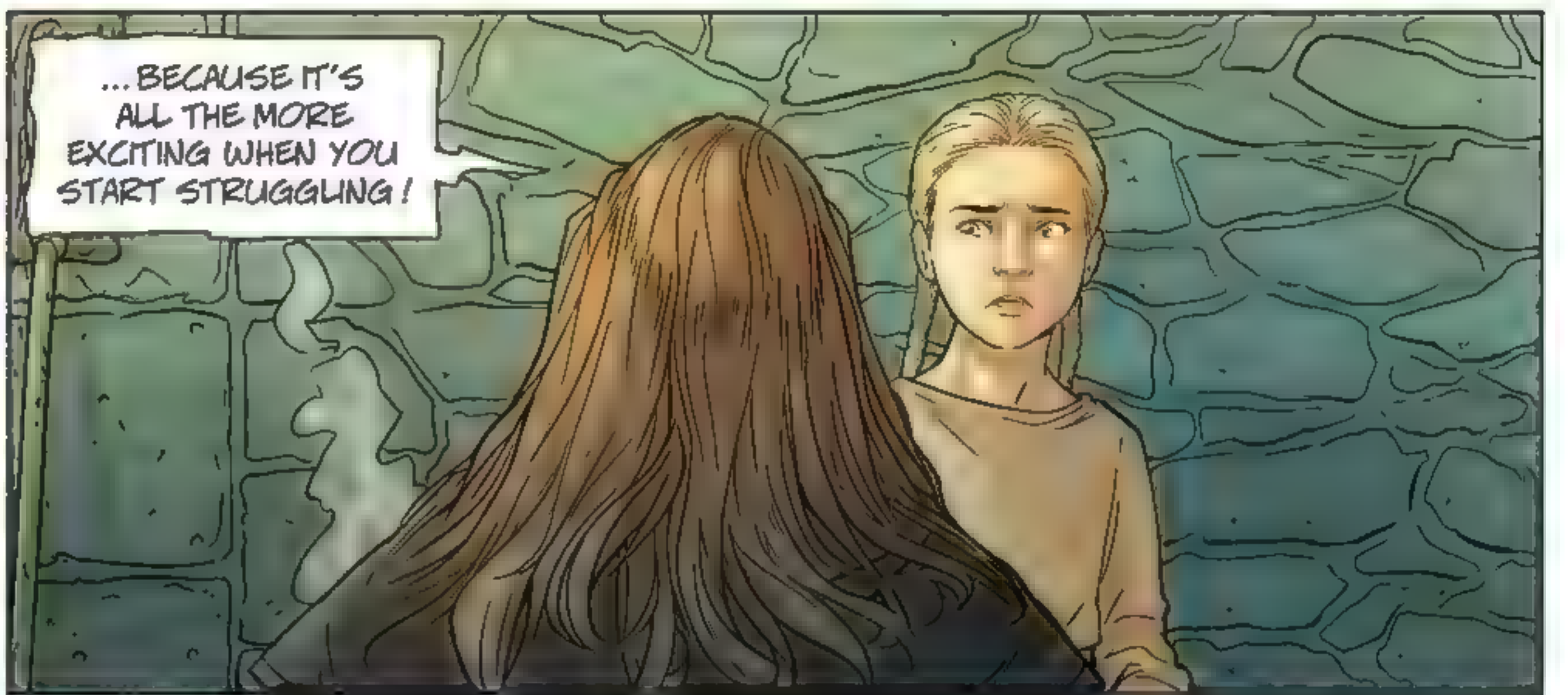
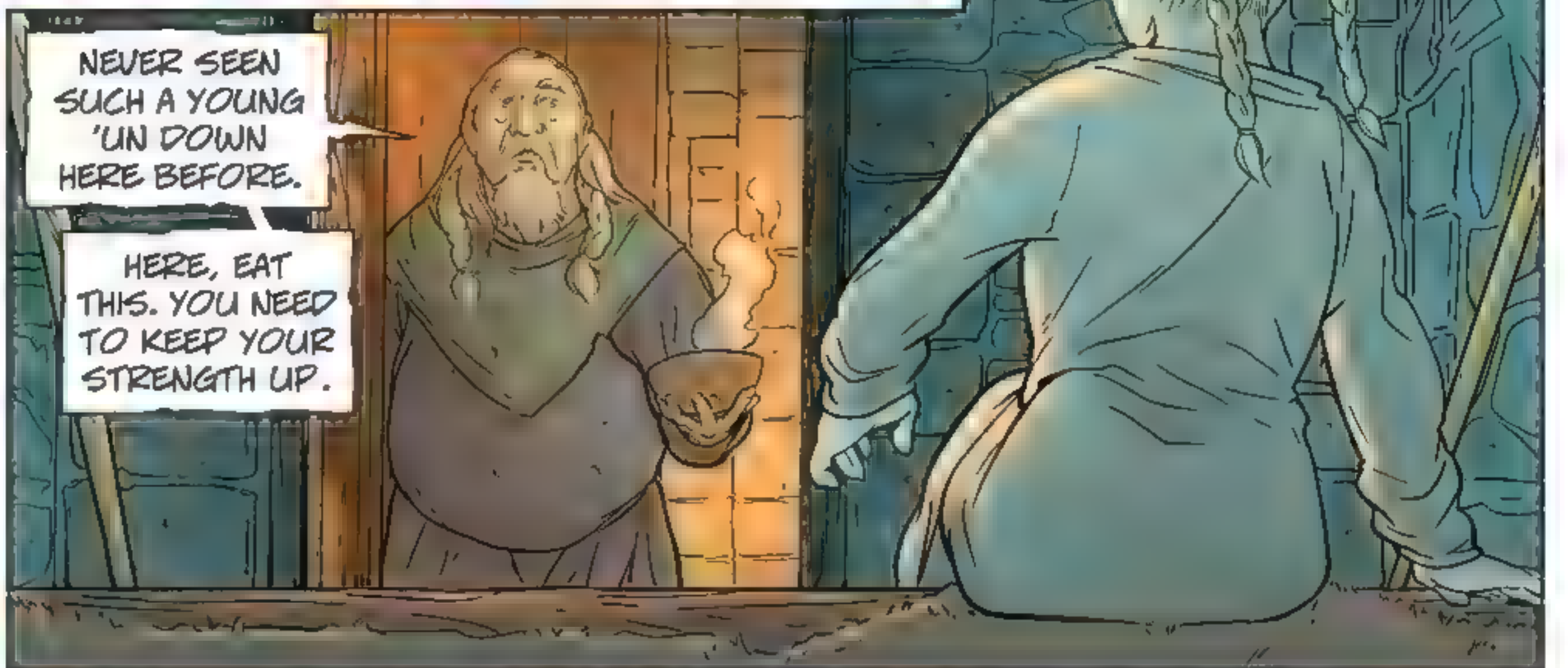
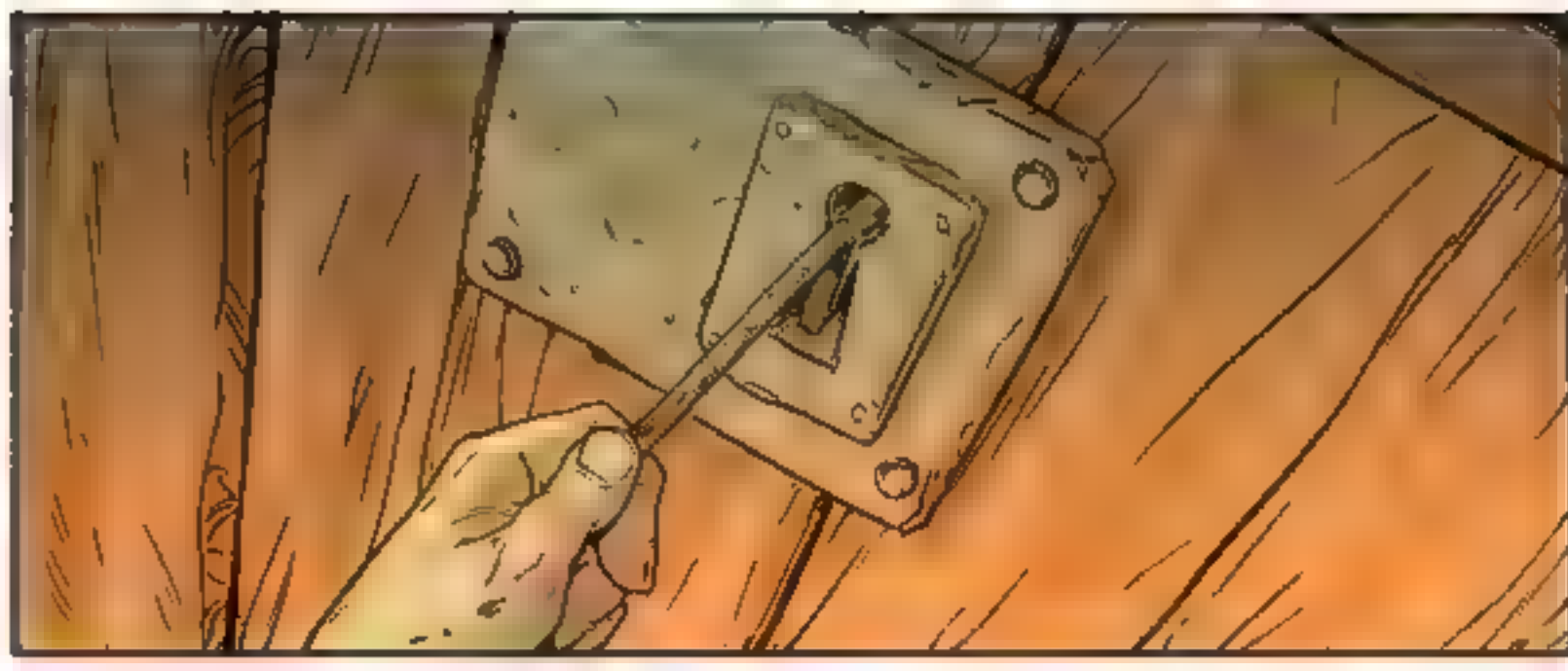
















DID MY FATHER  
INFORM YOU  
OF WHAT HE  
FOUND AT  
THE SCENE OF  
THE MURDER?

HE WASN'T ONE FOR  
TALKING. HE LOOKED  
AROUND SWENBORG'S  
CHAMBER SEVERAL TIMES  
BUT NEVER SHARED HIS  
THEORIES WITH ANYONE.  
NOT EVEN ME...



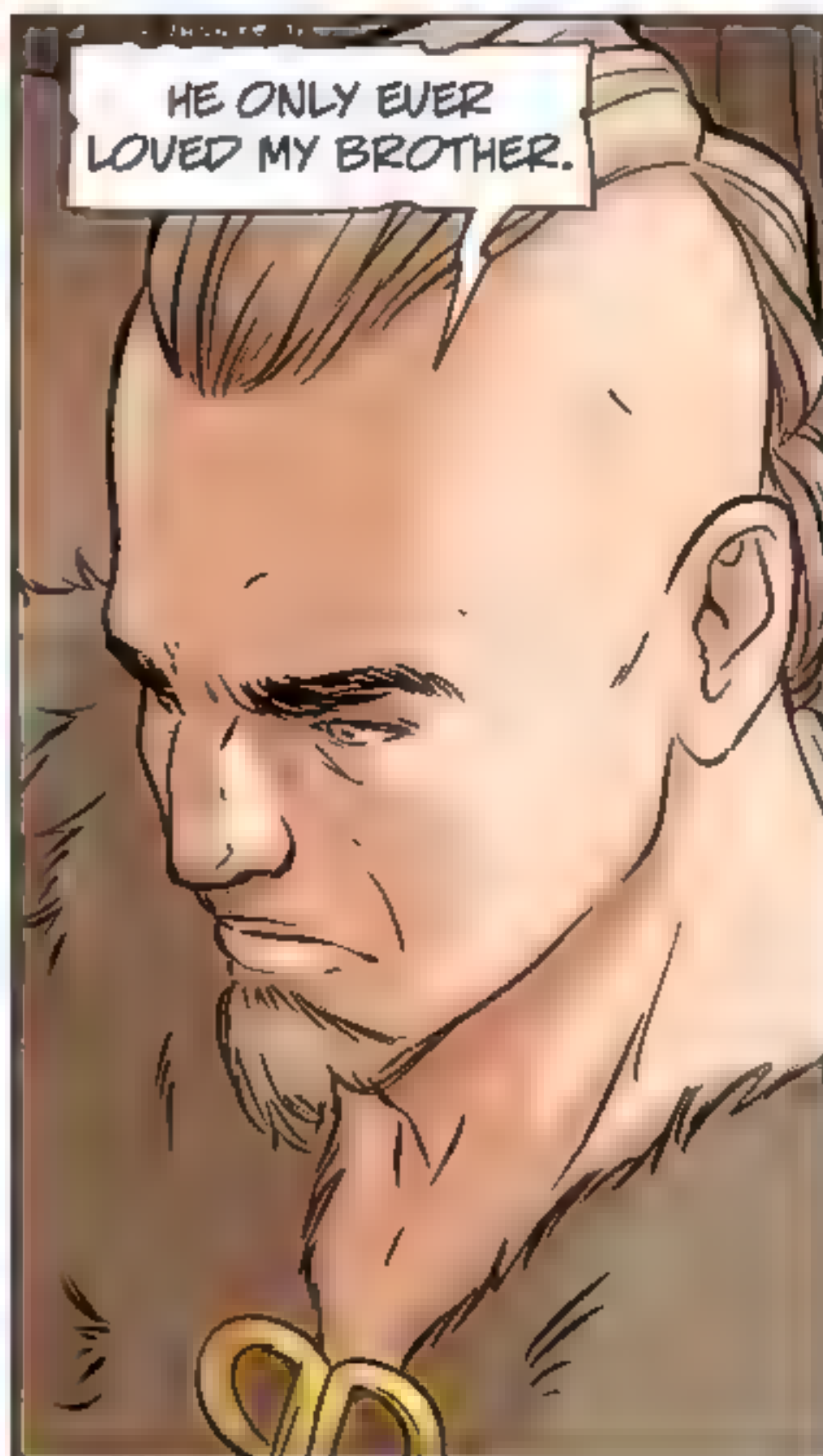
HE SAID THAT HARDEKNUD  
WOULD BE THE FIRST  
TO KNOW WHAT HE FOUND.



MY FATHER NEVER TRUSTED  
ANYONE. BUT I THOUGHT HE  
MIGHT HAVE GIVEN YOU A FEW  
CLUES, PRINCE. THAT WOULD  
HAVE SAVED US SOME TIME...



NO, ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M  
SURE MY FATHER MUST HAVE  
MADE IT PLAIN JUST HOW  
LITTLE HE TRUSTS ME...



HE ONLY EVER  
LOVED MY BROTHER.

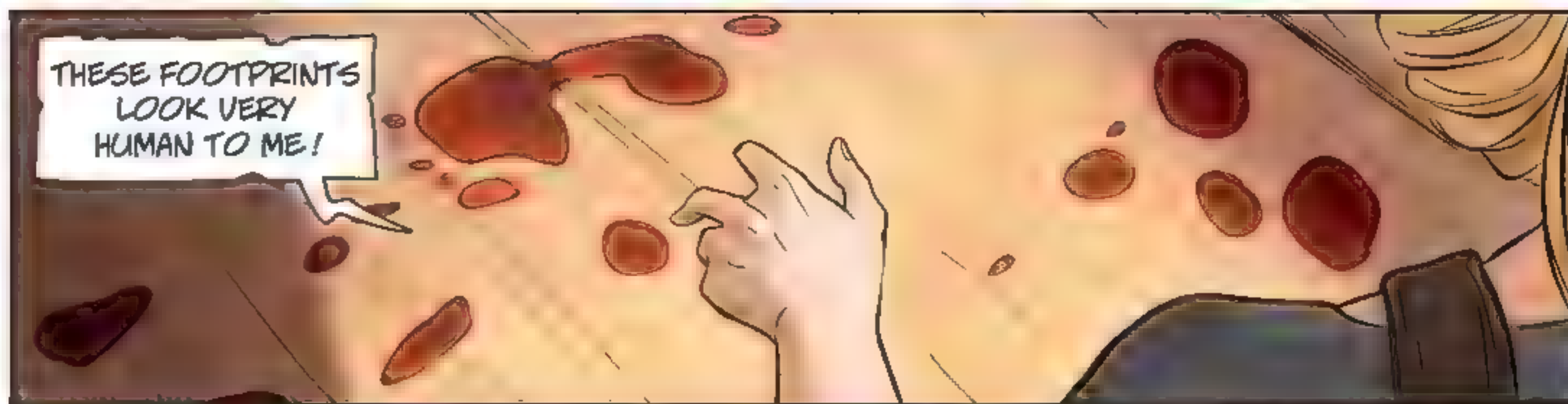


ARE YOU SURE THAT IT WAS  
A SIREN WHO MURDERED HIM?

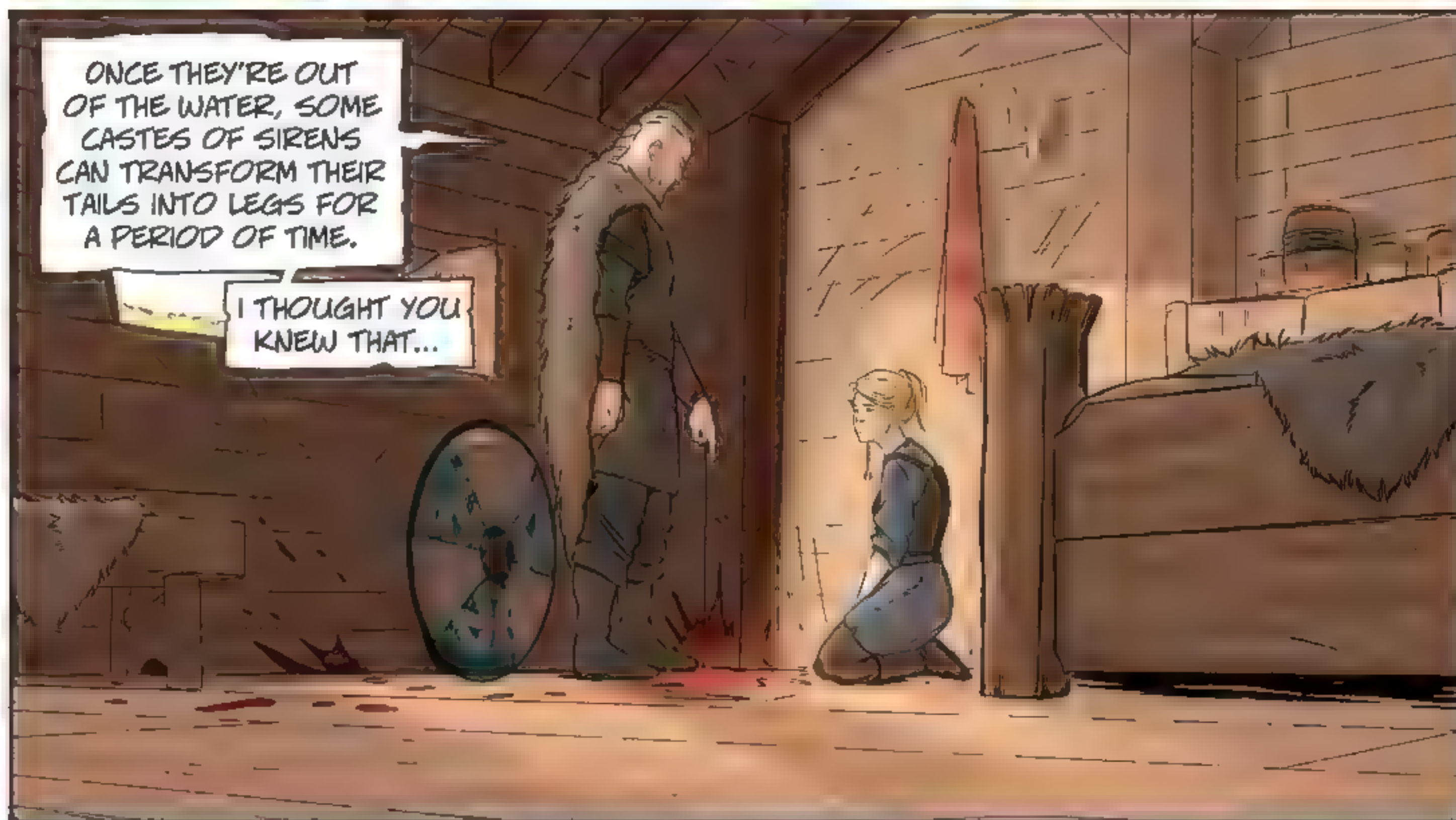




DON'T THESE CLAW MARKS PROVE IT CLEARLY ENOUGH? WHY DO YOU ASK?



THESE FOOTPRINTS LOOK VERY HUMAN TO ME!

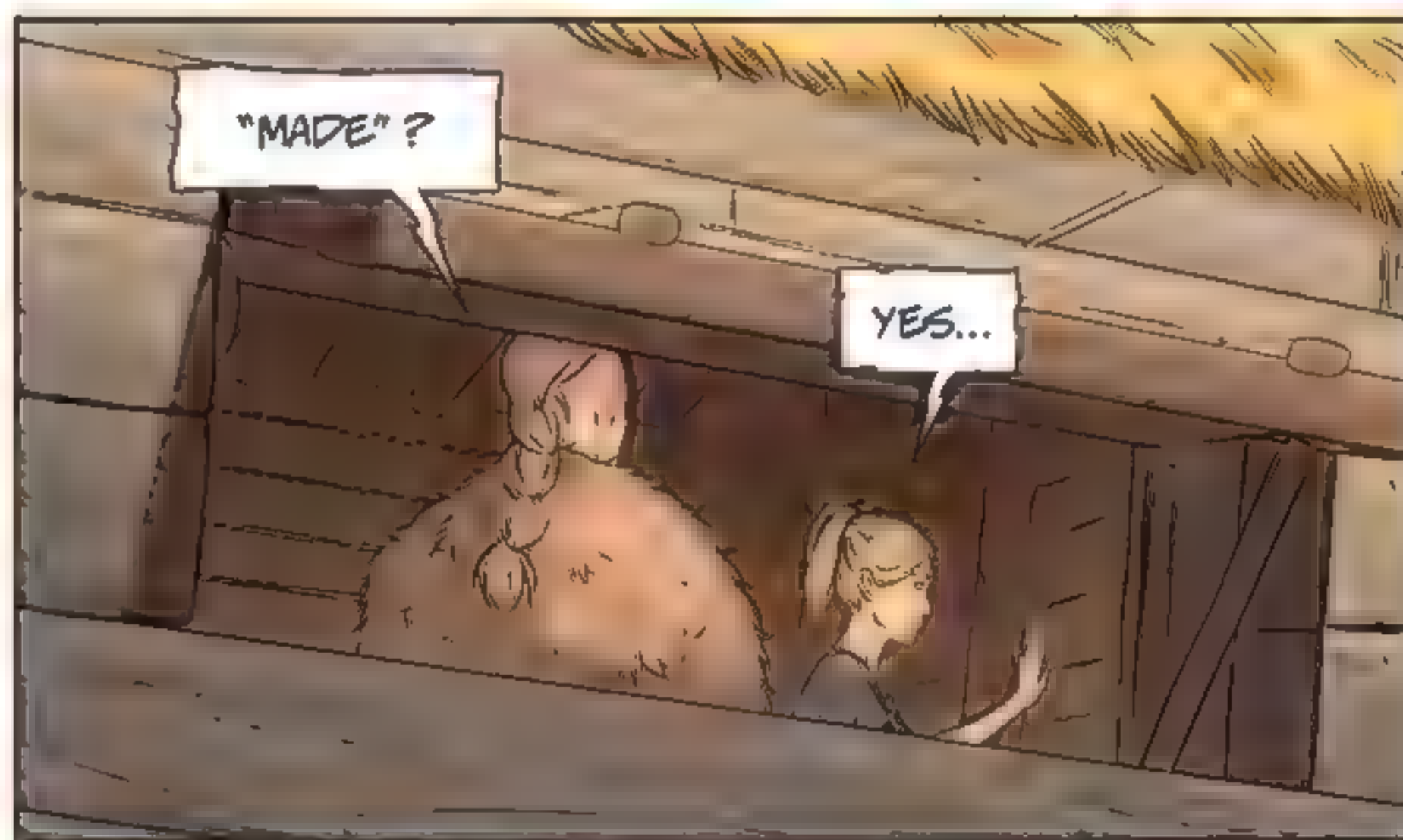


ONCE THEY'RE OUT OF THE WATER, SOME CASTES OF SIRENS CAN TRANSFORM THEIR TAILS INTO LEGS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

I THOUGHT YOU KNEW THAT...



IN ALL THE YEARS MY FATHER MADE ME WORK WITH HIM, WE NEVER TRACKED ANY OF THOSE CREATURES.



"MADE"?

YES...



WHEN MY MOTHER DIED, HE GREW OBSESSED WITH TURNING ME INTO A WARRIOR, JUST LIKE SHE HAD BEEN.



HMM... THAT'S INTERESTING.



THESE FINGERPRINTS, AND THIS PALM PRINT THAT'S IN SEVERAL PLACES...

WHAT OF IT?



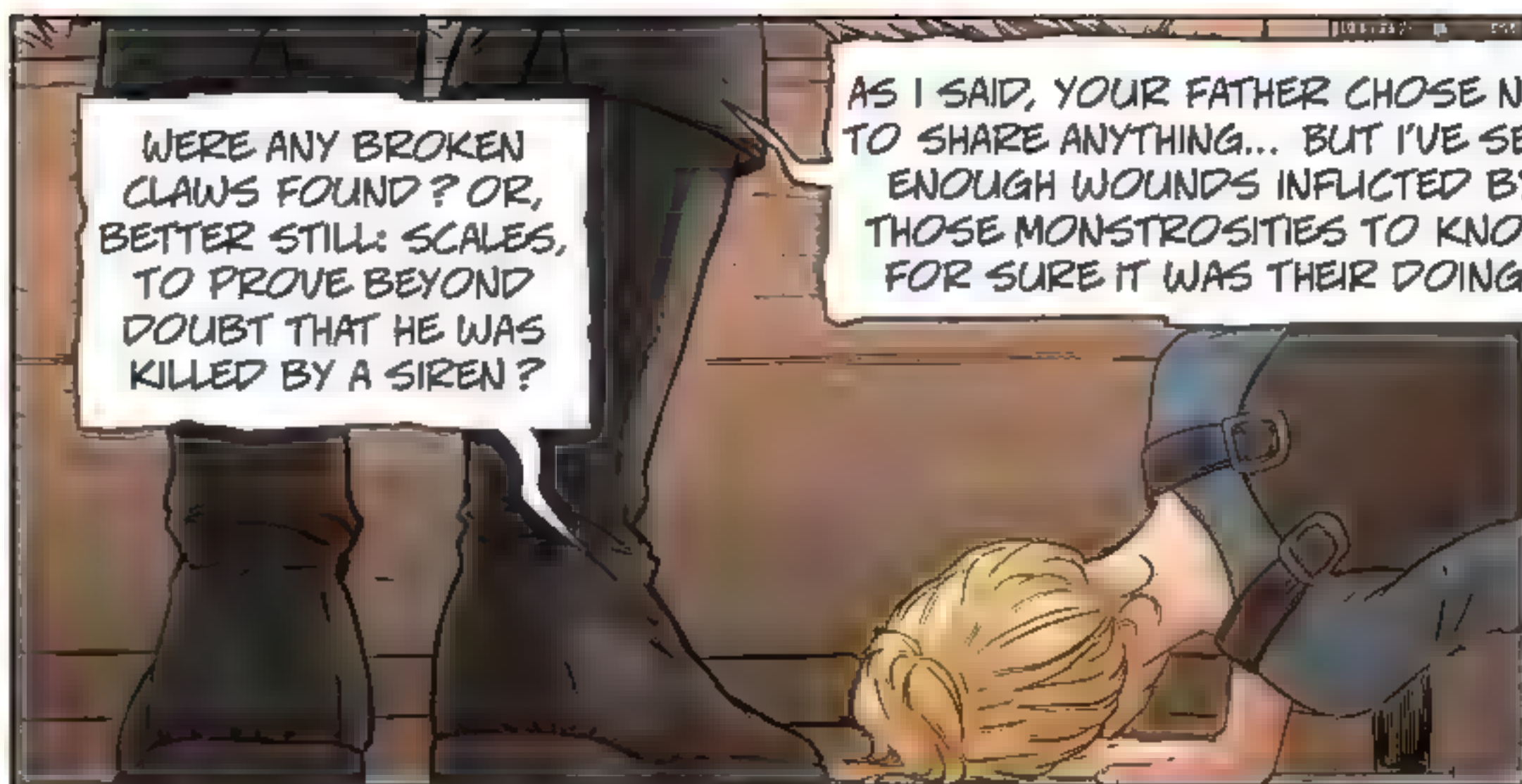
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. THE PRINTS SHOW SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A SCAR RUNNING FROM THE INDEX FINGER TO THE WRIST...

FROM MY BRIEF TIME WITH HIS BODY, I'M SURE YOUR BROTHER HAD NO SUCH SCAR.



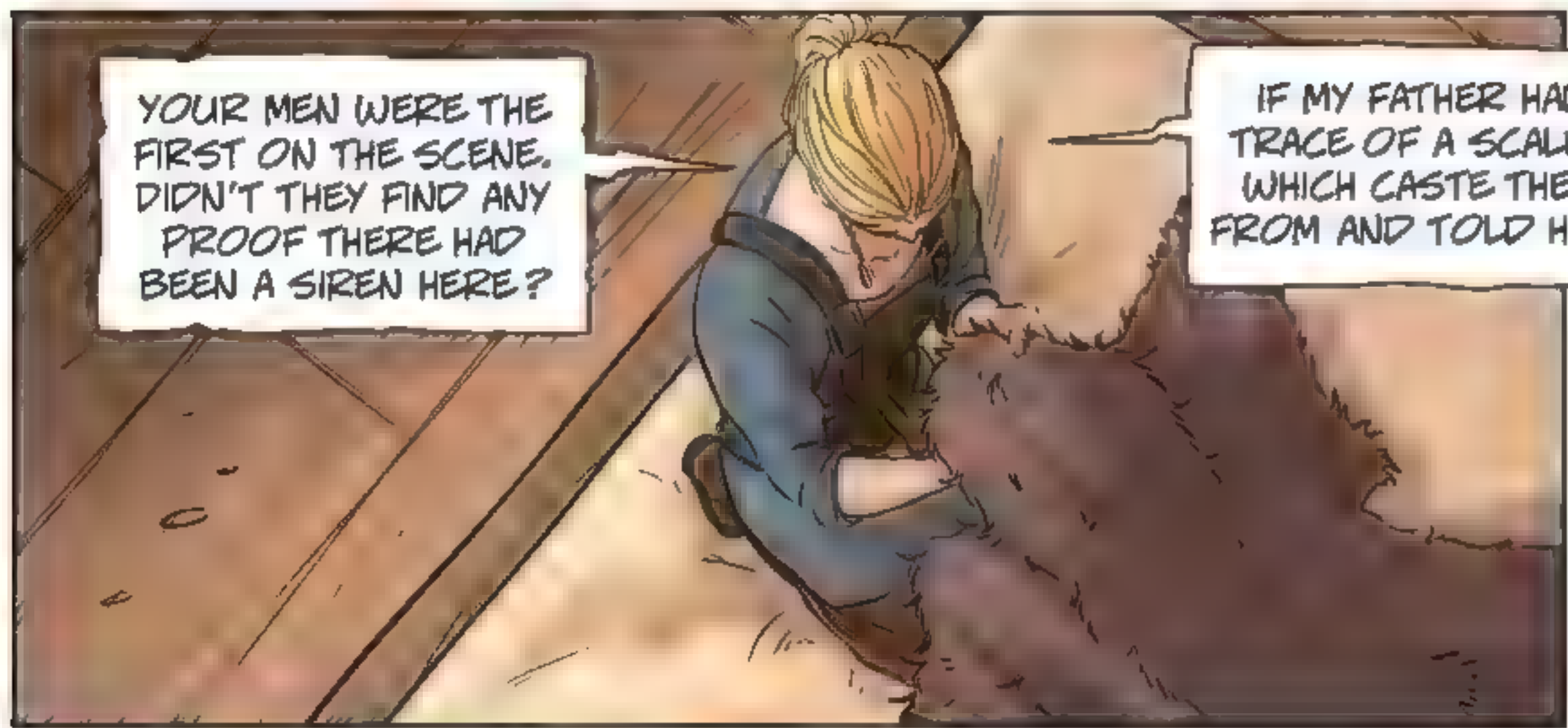


LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS ONLY ONE ASSAILANT. MUST HAVE GOT IN THROUGH THIS WINDOW...



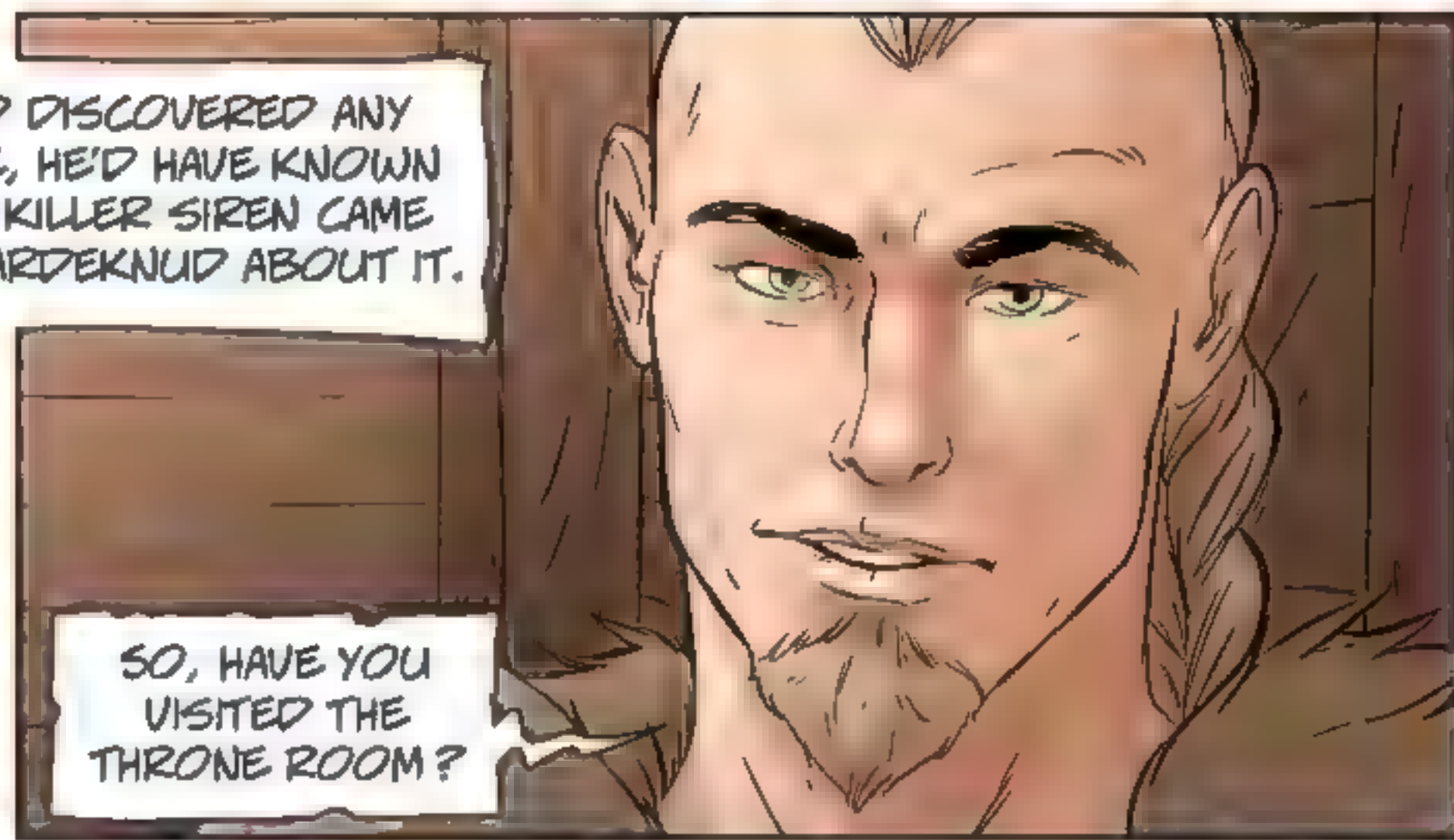
WERE ANY BROKEN CLAWS FOUND? OR, BETTER STILL: SCALES, TO PROVE BEYOND DOUBT THAT HE WAS KILLED BY A SIREN?

AS I SAID, YOUR FATHER CHOSE NOT TO SHARE ANYTHING... BUT I'VE SEEN ENOUGH WOUNDS INFLICTED BY THOSE MONSTROSITIES TO KNOW FOR SURE IT WAS THEIR DOING!



YOUR MEN WERE THE FIRST ON THE SCENE. DIDN'T THEY FIND ANY PROOF THERE HAD BEEN A SIREN HERE?

IF MY FATHER HAD DISCOVERED ANY TRACE OF A SCALE, HE'D HAVE KNOWN WHICH CASTE THE KILLER SIREN CAME FROM AND TOLD HARDEKNUD ABOUT IT.

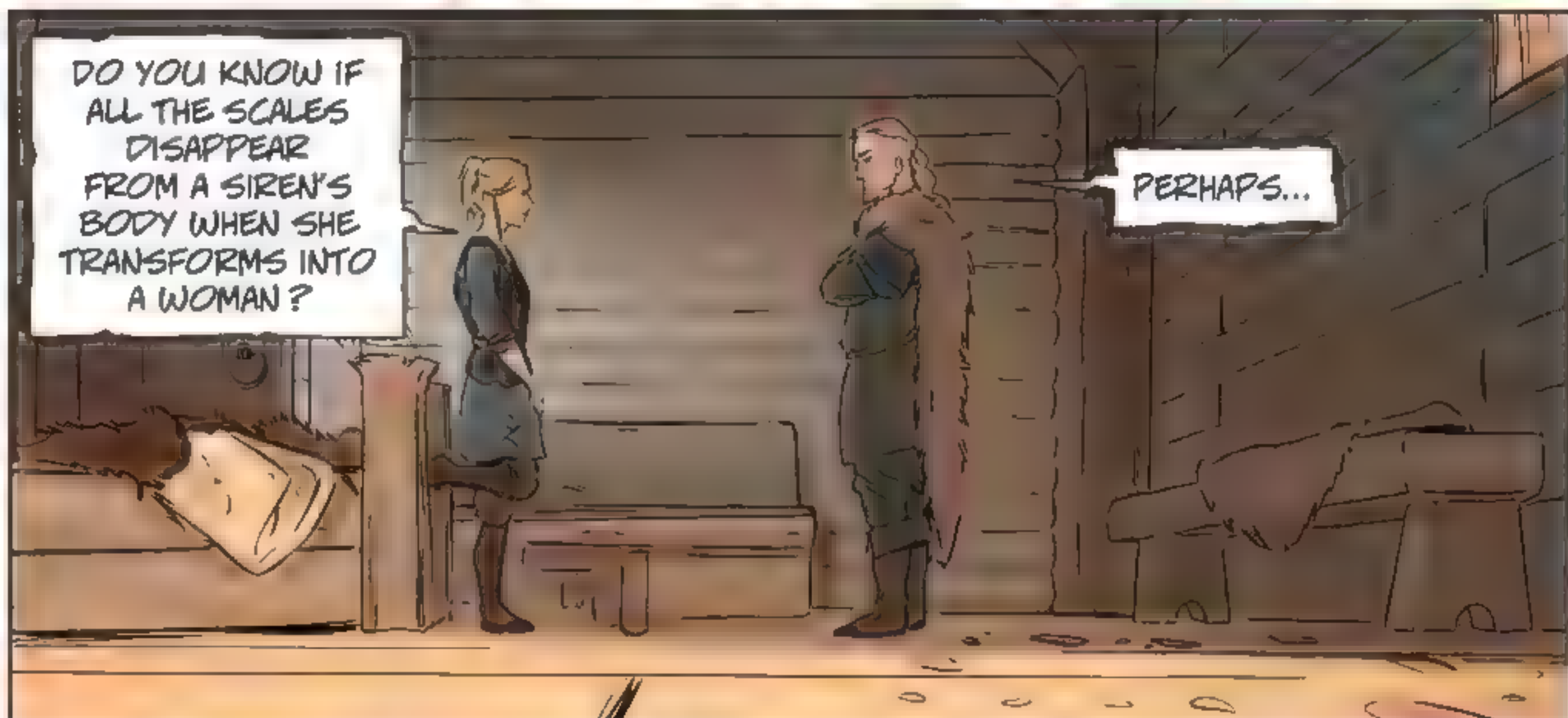


SO, HAVE YOU VISITED THE THRONE ROOM?



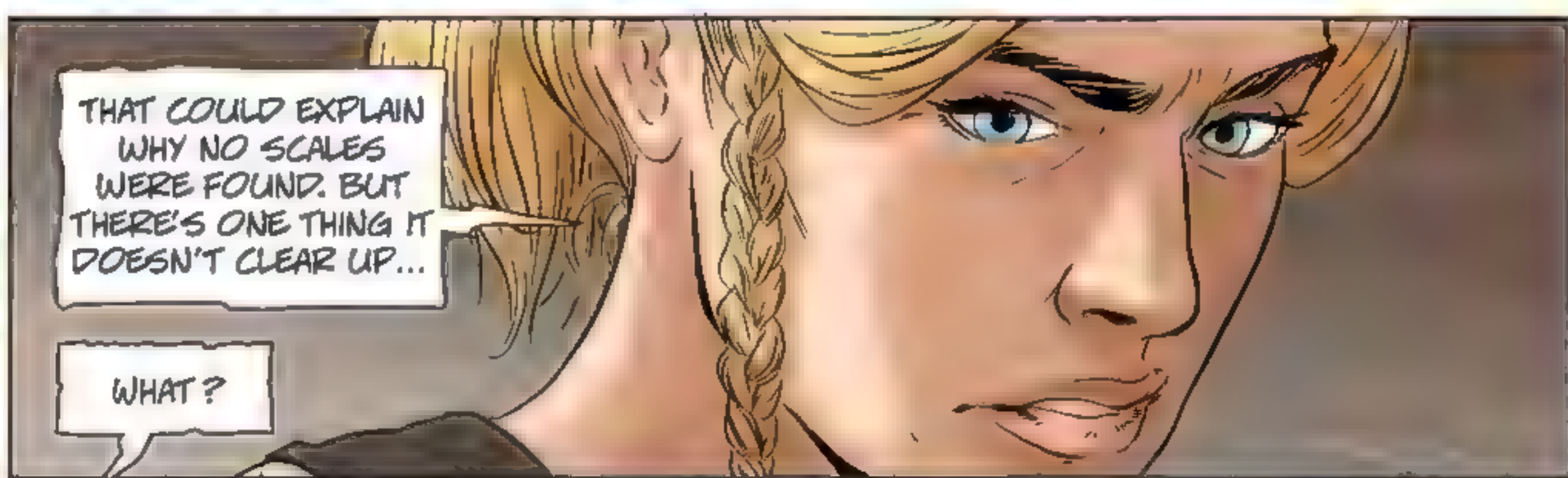
I WAS HARDLY WELCOMED LIKE MY FATHER...

BUT, YES, WHILE THE KING WAS WRENCHING MY DAUGHTER AWAY AND THREATENING TO KILL HER, I DID NOTICE THAT EACH OF THE STUFFED SIRENS ON THE WALLS HAD THEIR OWN DISTINCT COAT OF SCALES.



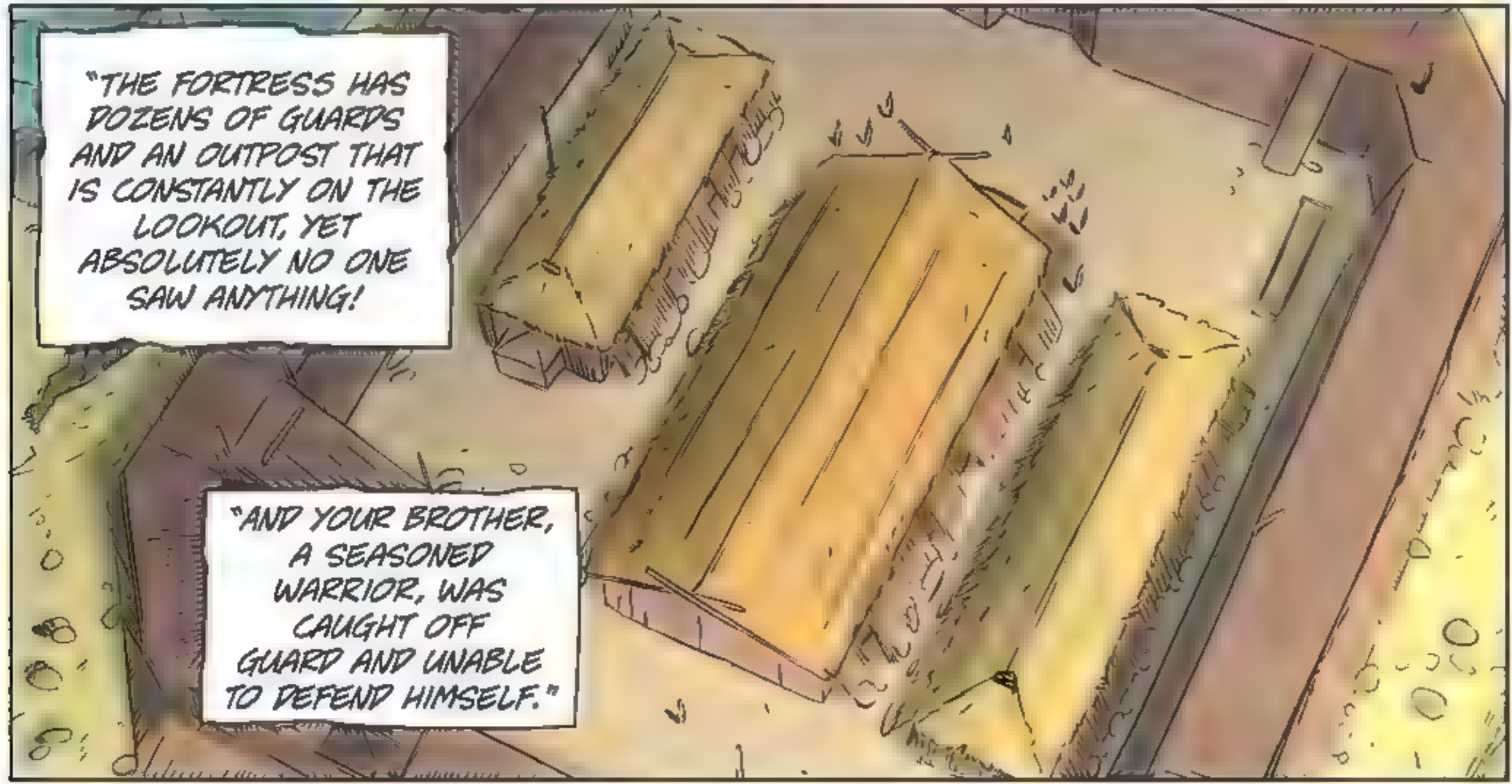
DO YOU KNOW IF ALL THE SCALES DISAPPEAR FROM A SIREN'S BODY WHEN SHE TRANSFORMS INTO A WOMAN?

PERHAPS...



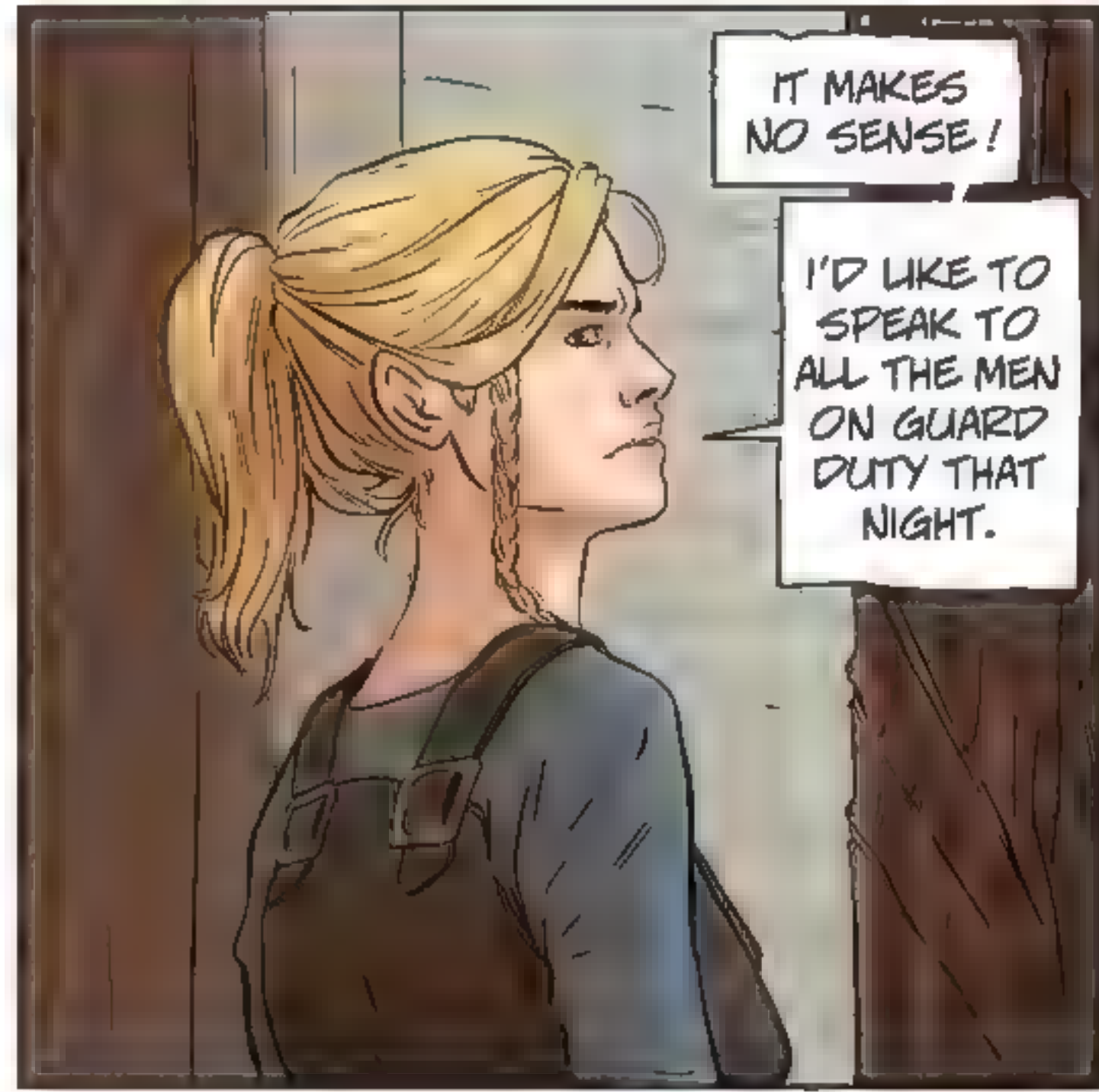
THAT COULD EXPLAIN WHY NO SCALES WERE FOUND. BUT THERE'S ONE THING IT DOESN'T CLEAR UP...

WHAT?



"THE FORTRESS HAS DOZENS OF GUARDS AND AN OUTPOST THAT IS CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT, YET ABSOLUTELY NO ONE SAW ANYTHING!"

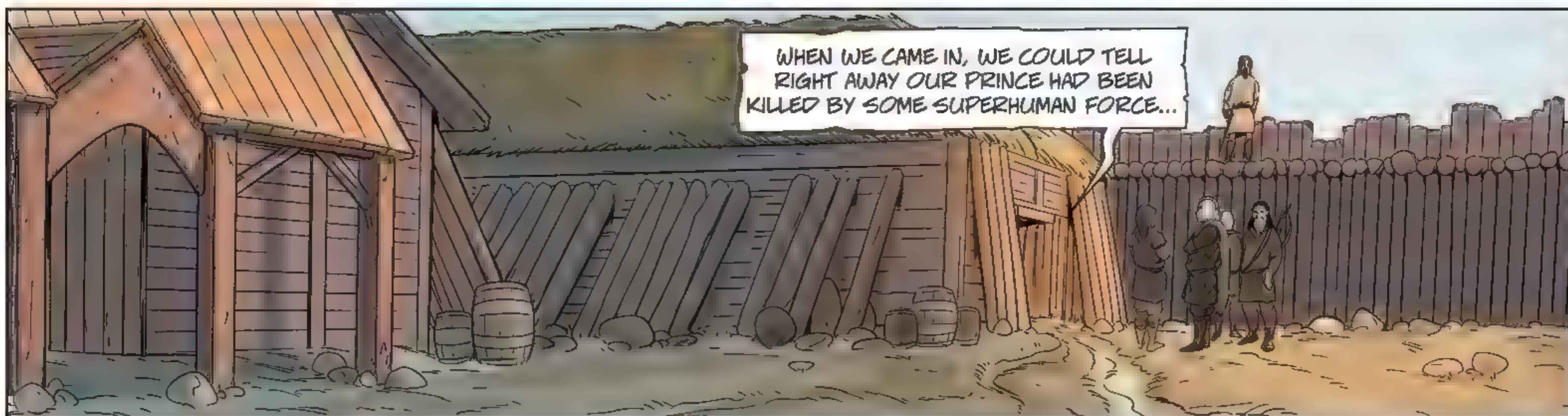
"AND YOUR BROTHER, A SEASONED WARRIOR, WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD AND UNABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF."



IT MAKES NO SENSE!

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO ALL THE MEN ON GUARD DUTY THAT NIGHT.

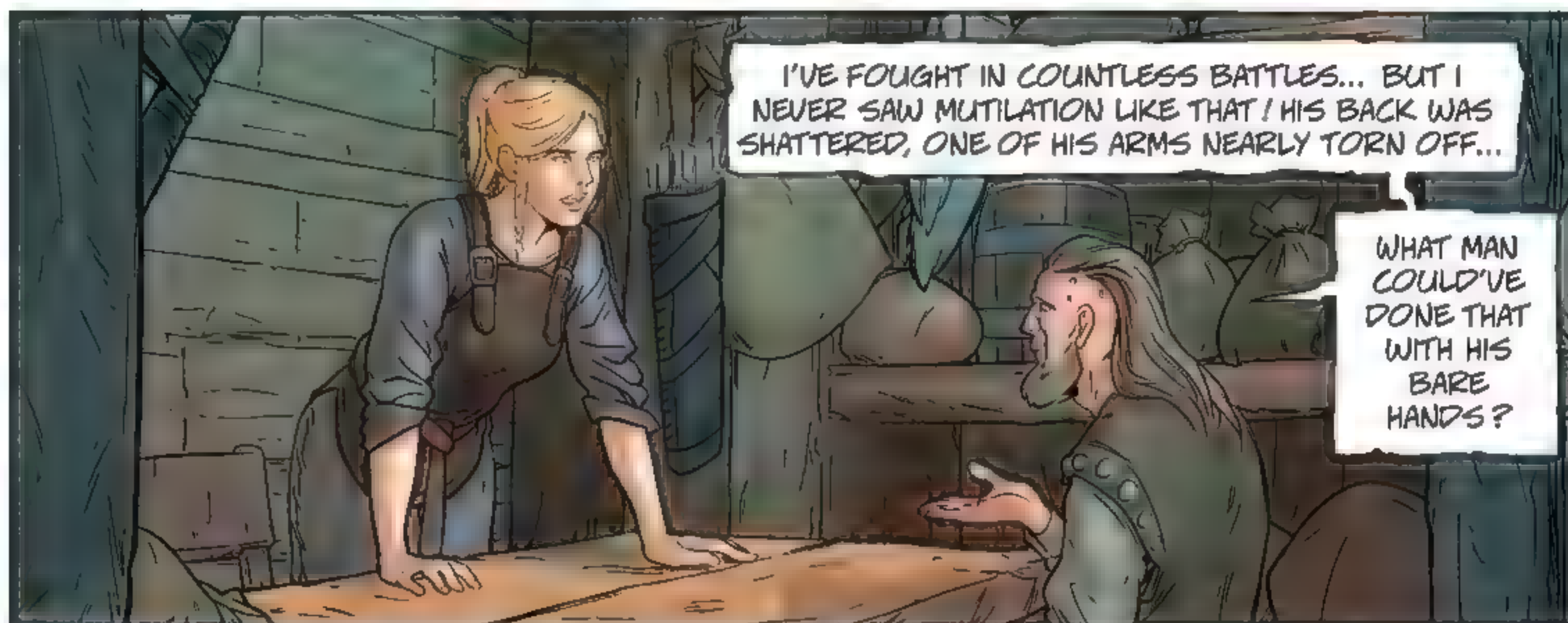




WHEN WE CAME IN, WE COULD TELL  
RIGHT AWAY OUR PRINCE HAD BEEN  
KILLED BY SOME SUPERHUMAN FORCE...

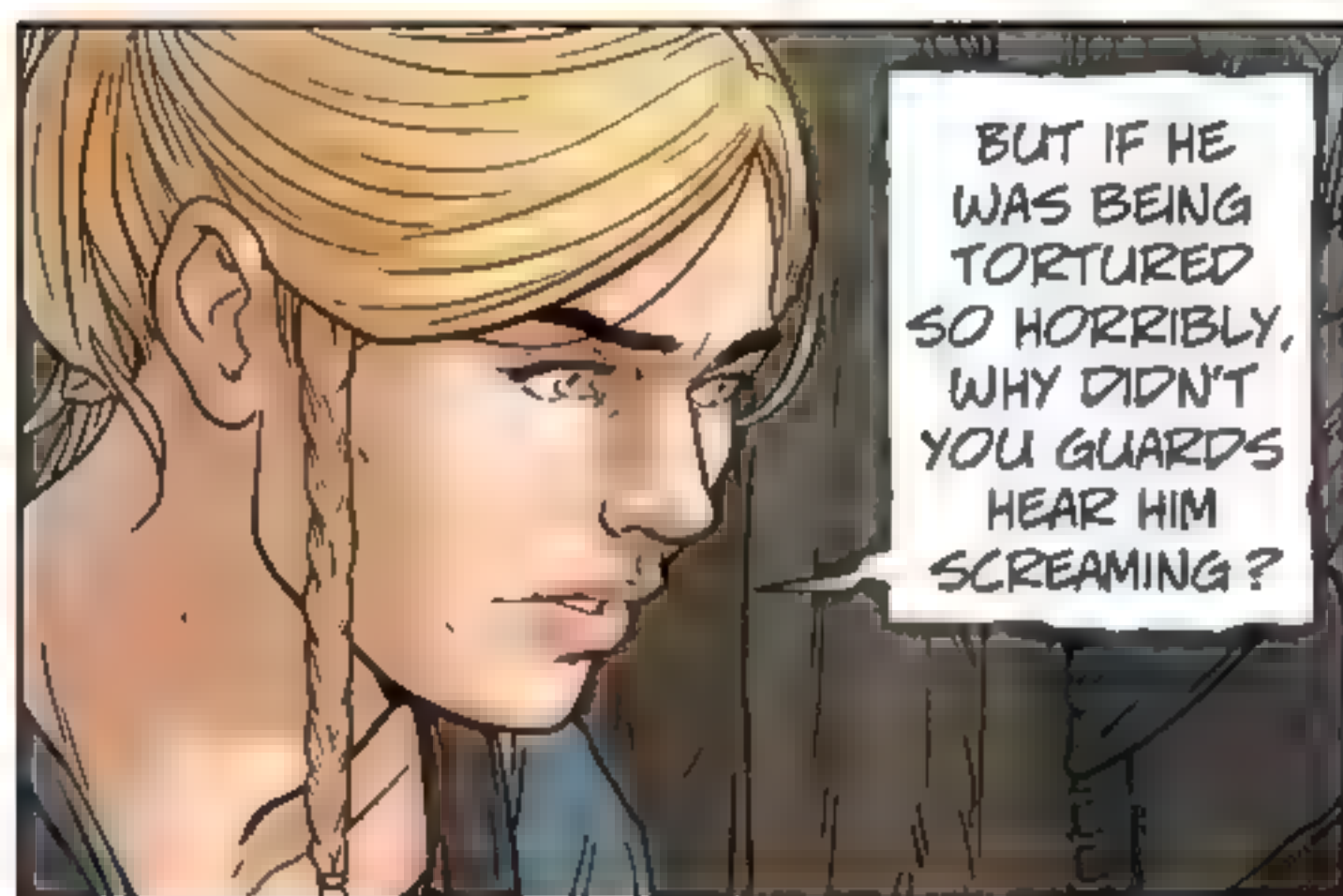


WHY DO  
YOU SAY  
THAT?



I'VE FOUGHT IN COUNTLESS BATTLES... BUT I  
NEVER SAW MUTILATION LIKE THAT! HIS BACK WAS  
SHATTERED, ONE OF HIS ARMS NEARLY TORN OFF...

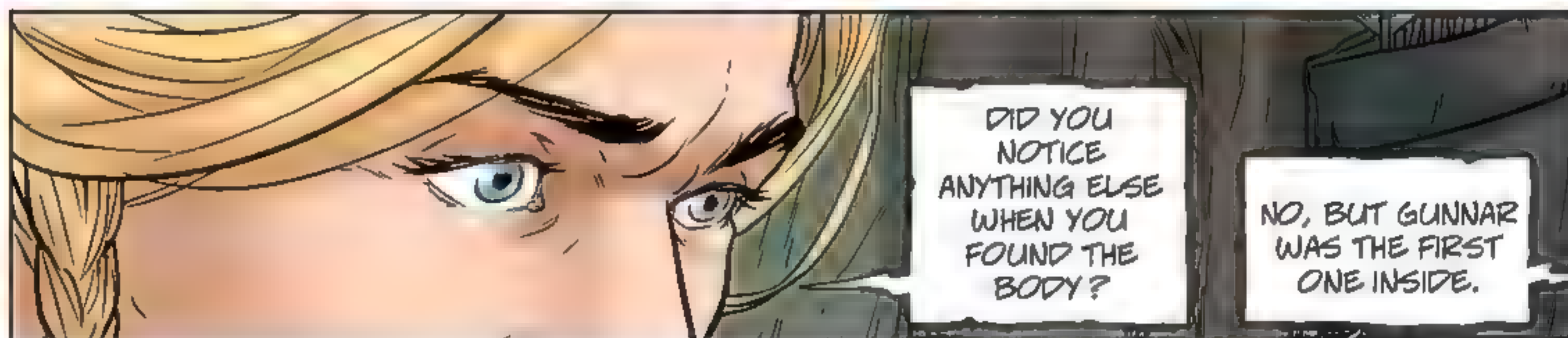
WHAT MAN  
COULD'VE  
DONE THAT  
WITH HIS  
BARE  
HANDS?



BUT IF HE  
WAS BEING  
TORTURED  
SO HORRIBLY,  
WHY DIDN'T  
YOU GUARDS  
HEAR HIM  
SCREAMING?

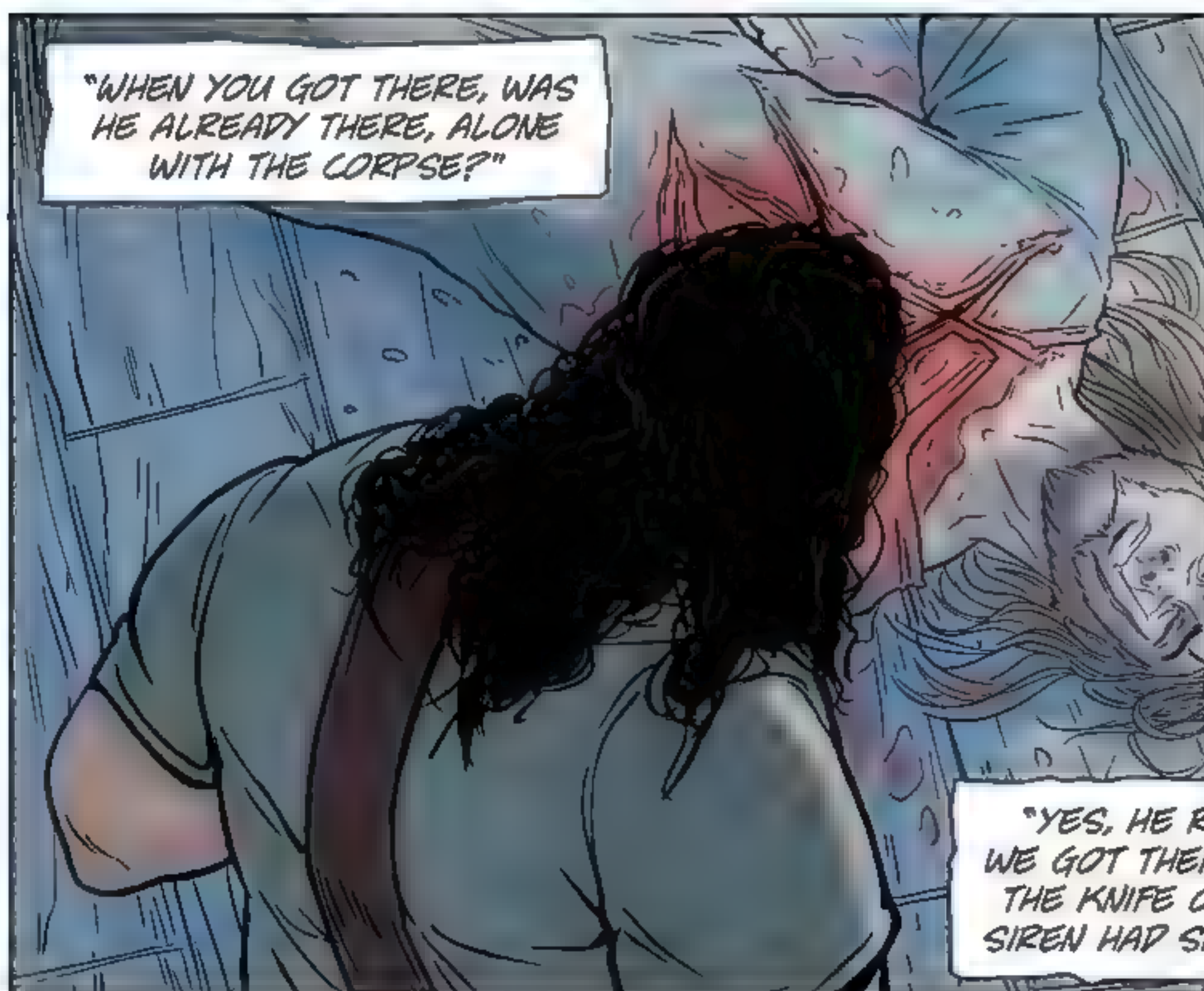


MAYBE HIS  
NECK WAS  
CRUSHED FIRST,  
TO STOP HIM  
MAKING ANY  
SOUNDS.



DID YOU  
NOTICE  
ANYTHING ELSE  
WHEN YOU  
FOUND THE  
BODY?

NO, BUT GUNNAR  
WAS THE FIRST  
ONE INSIDE.



"WHEN YOU GOT THERE, WAS  
HE ALREADY THERE, ALONE  
WITH THE CORPSE?"



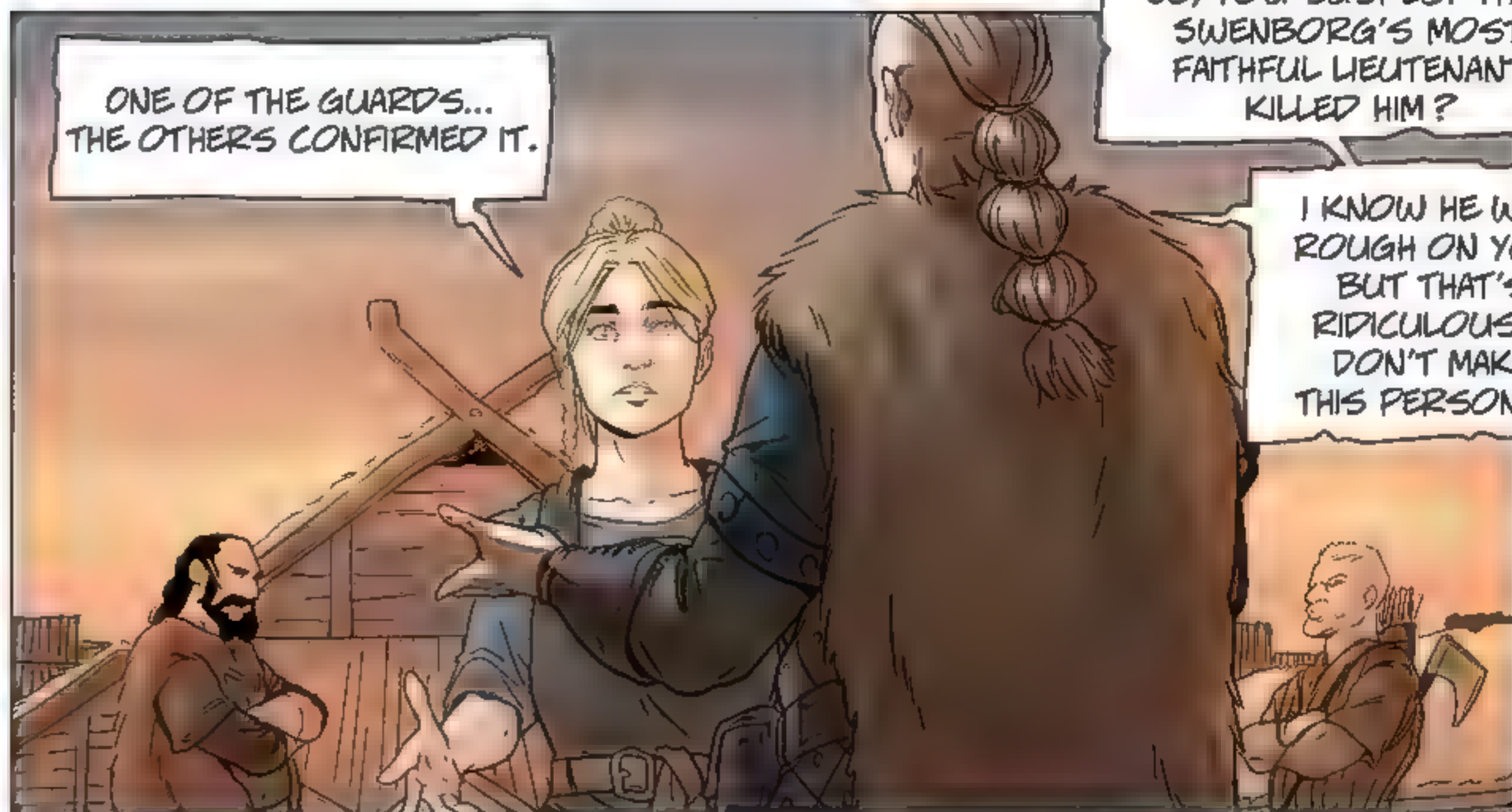
"YES, HE RAISED THE ALARM. WHEN  
WE GOT THERE, HE WAS JUST PULLING  
THE KNIFE OUT OF THE PRINCE... THE  
SIREN HAD STABBED HIM IN THE HEART."





DID YOU KNOW THAT GUNNAR WAS THE FIRST MAN TO GO INSIDE YOUR BROTHER'S CHAMBER AFTER THE MURDER?

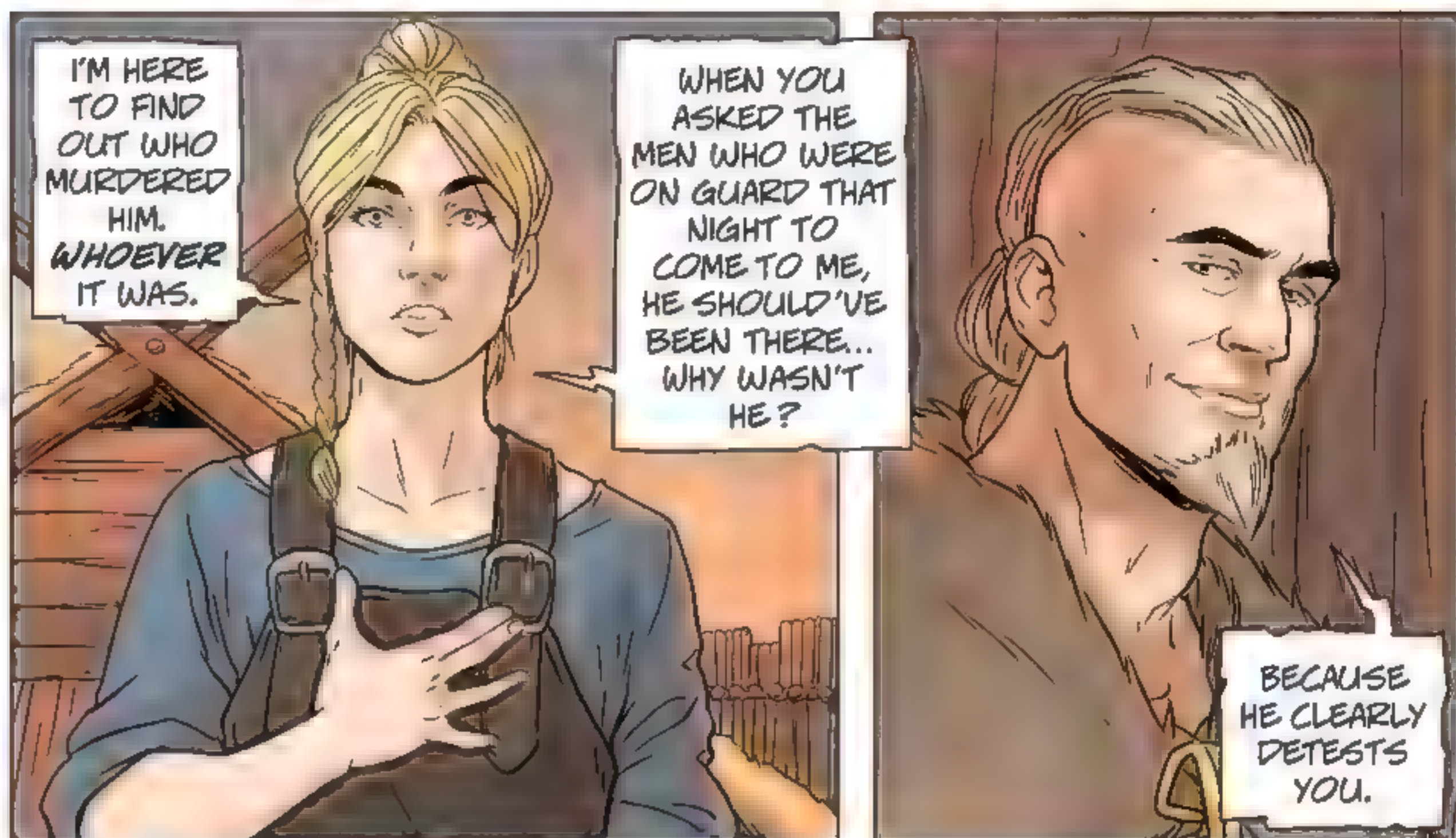
NO. WHO TOLD YOU THAT?



ONE OF THE GUARDS... THE OTHERS CONFIRMED IT.

SO, YOU SUSPECT THAT SWENBORG'S MOST FAITHFUL LIEUTENANT KILLED HIM?

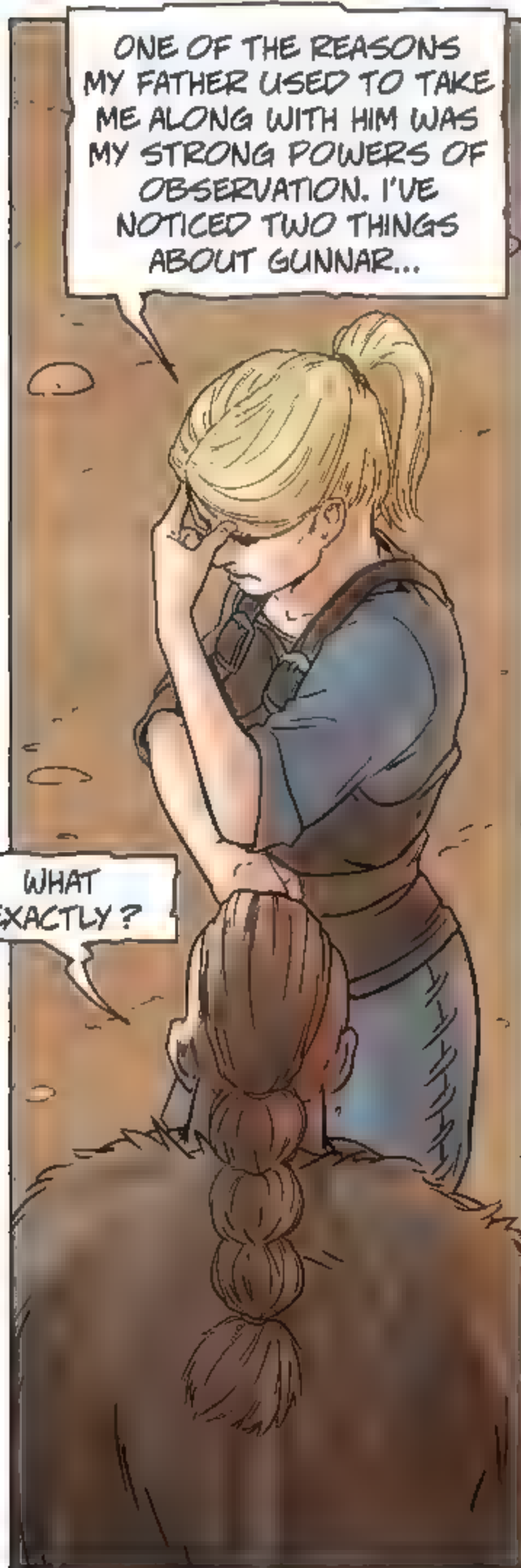
I KNOW HE WAS ROUGH ON YOU, BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS... DON'T MAKE THIS PERSONAL.



I'M HERE TO FIND OUT WHO MURDERED HIM. WHOEVER IT WAS.

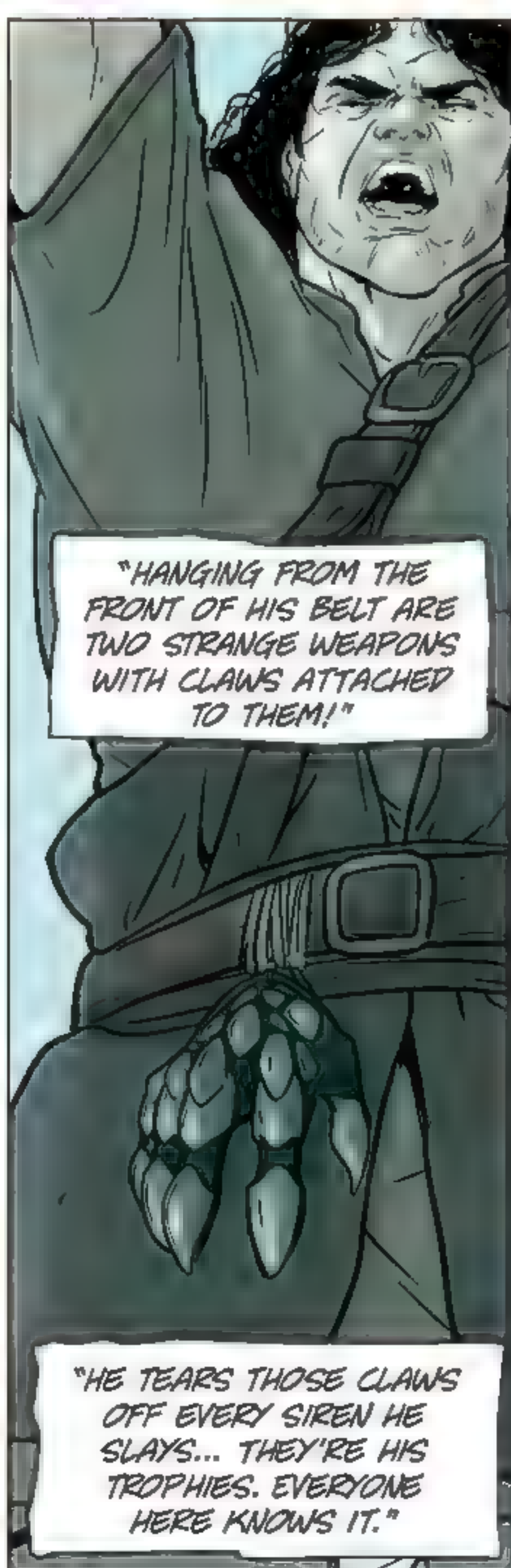
WHEN YOU ASKED THE MEN WHO WERE ON GUARD THAT NIGHT TO COME TO ME, HE SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE... WHY WASN'T HE?

BECAUSE HE CLEARLY DETESTS YOU.



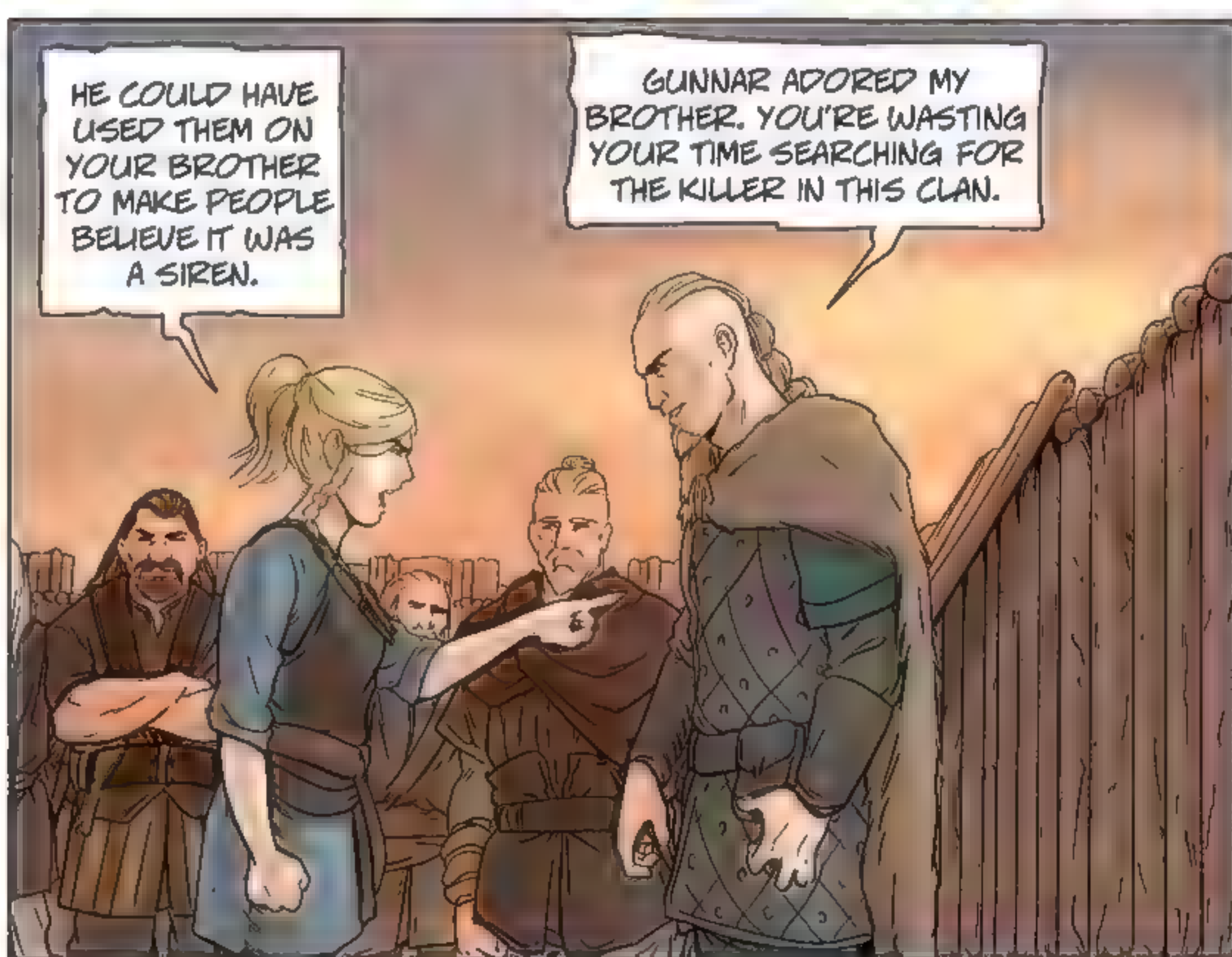
ONE OF THE REASONS MY FATHER USED TO TAKE ME ALONG WITH HIM WAS MY STRONG POWERS OF OBSERVATION. I'VE NOTICED TWO THINGS ABOUT GUNNAR...

WHAT EXACTLY?



"HANGING FROM THE FRONT OF HIS BELT ARE TWO STRANGE WEAPONS WITH CLAWS ATTACHED TO THEM!"

"HE TEARS THOSE CLAWS OFF EVERY SIREN HE SLAYS... THEY'RE HIS TROPHIES. EVERYONE HERE KNOWS IT."



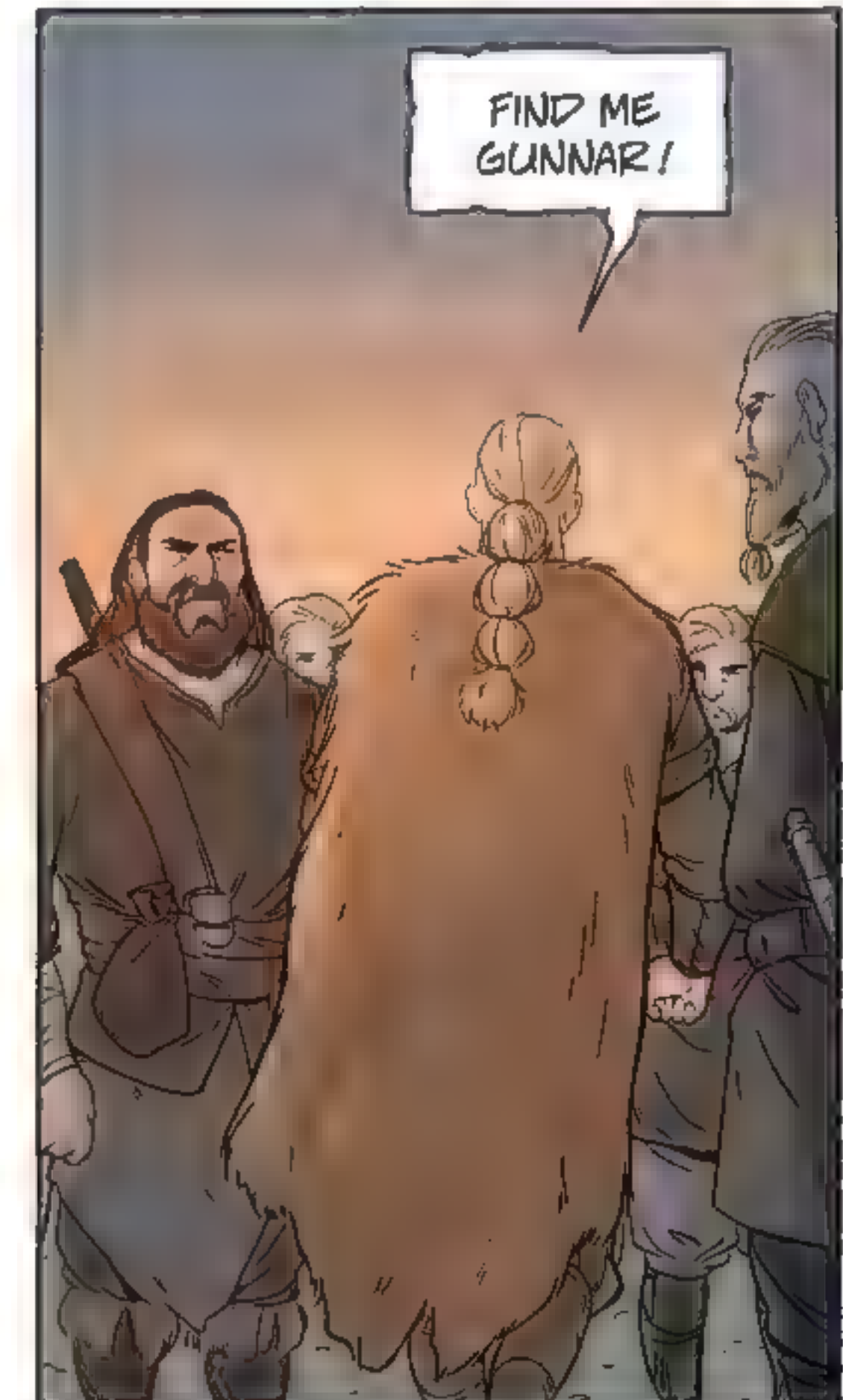
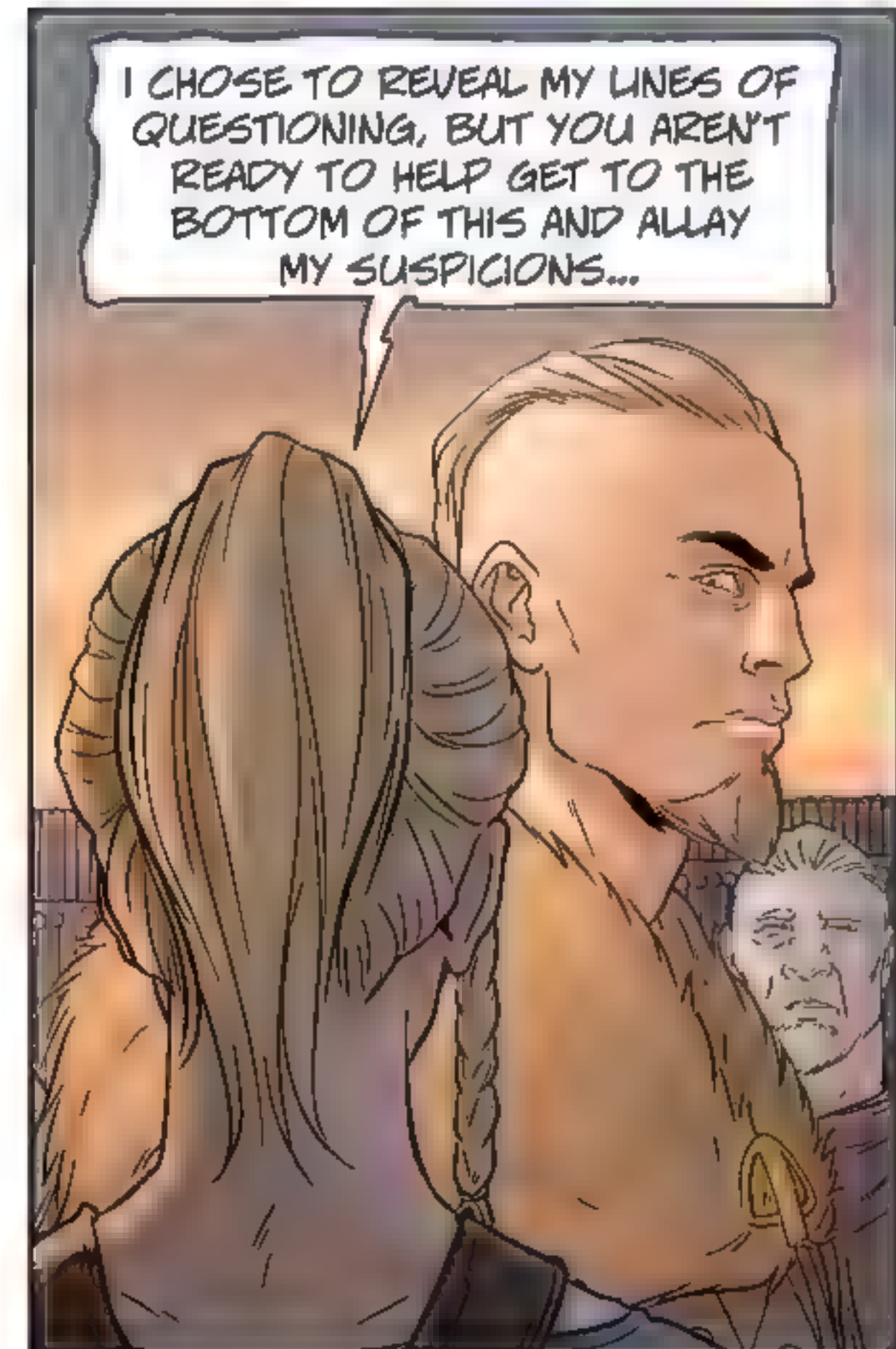
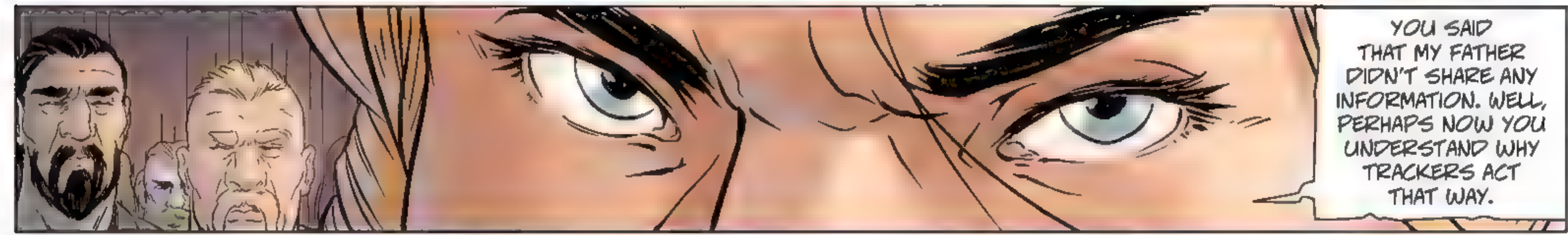
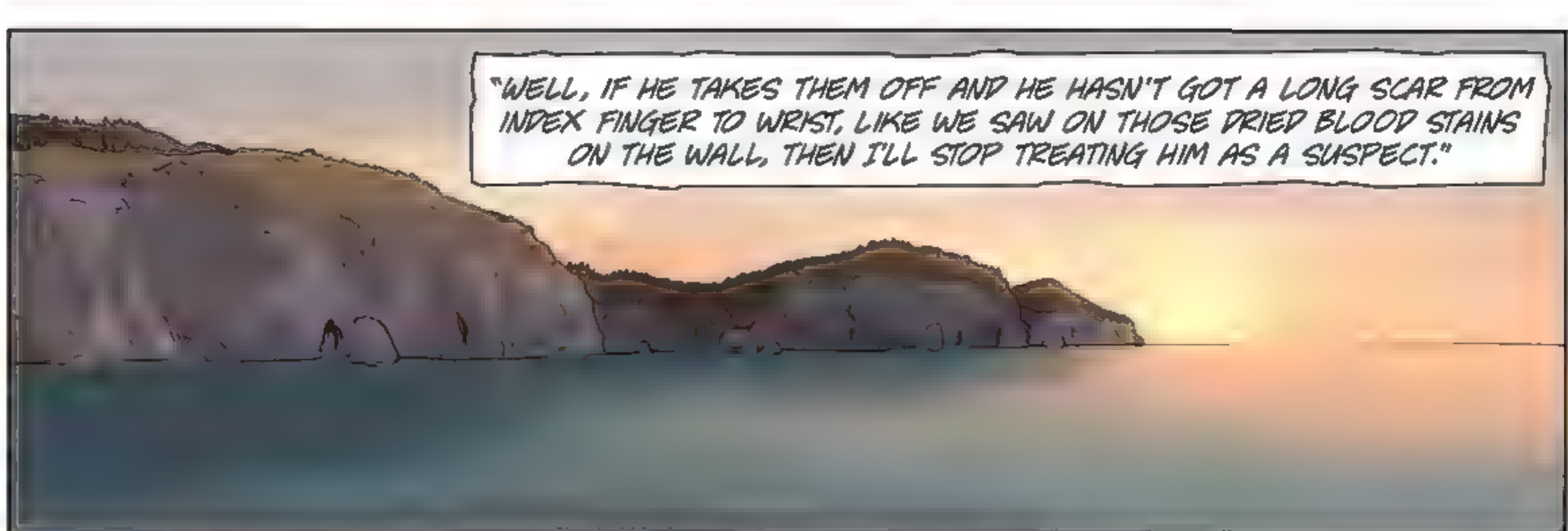
HE COULD HAVE USED THEM ON YOUR BROTHER TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE IT WAS A SIREN.

GUNNAR ADORED MY BROTHER. YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME SEARCHING FOR THE KILLER IN THIS CLAN.



AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE STRANGE GAUNTLETS GUNNAR WEARS?









LEAVE GUNNAR BE,  
YOU DAMNED WOMAN!

SHUT UP, THORVAL!  
I WANT TO KNOW  
FOR SURE WHO  
REALLY KILLED  
SWENBORG.



HE'S INSIDE. MY MEN  
HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE  
GETTING HIM IN THERE!

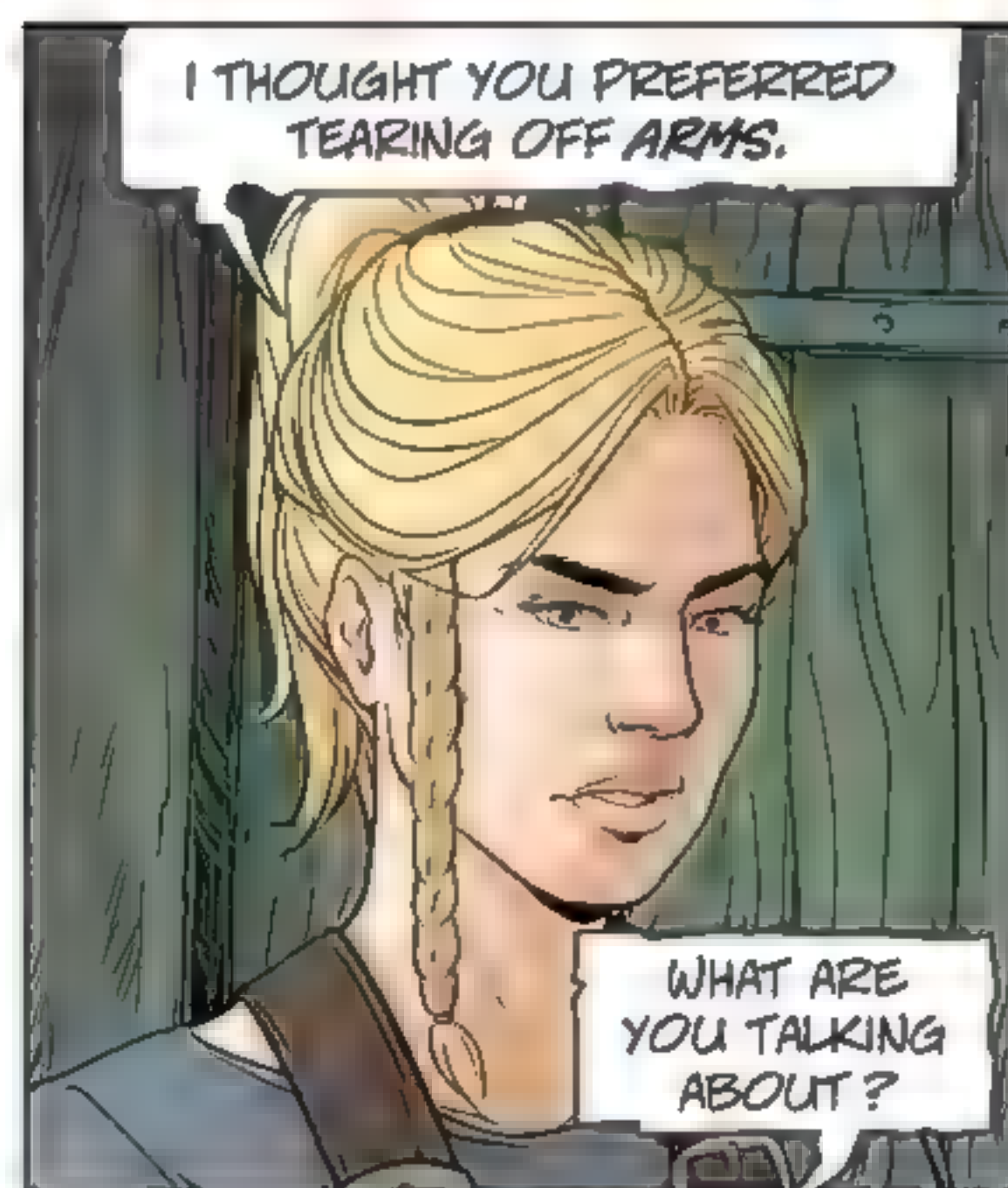
ARE YOU  
CERTAIN YOU  
WANT TO GO  
IN ALONE?



YES... AND LOCK  
IT BEHIND ME!



THE ONLY  
REASON I'M NOT  
TEARING YOUR  
HEAD OFF IS  
THAT YOU'VE GOT  
MORE BALLS  
THAN THE NEW  
PRINCE!



I THOUGHT YOU PREFERRED  
TEARING OFF ARMS.

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



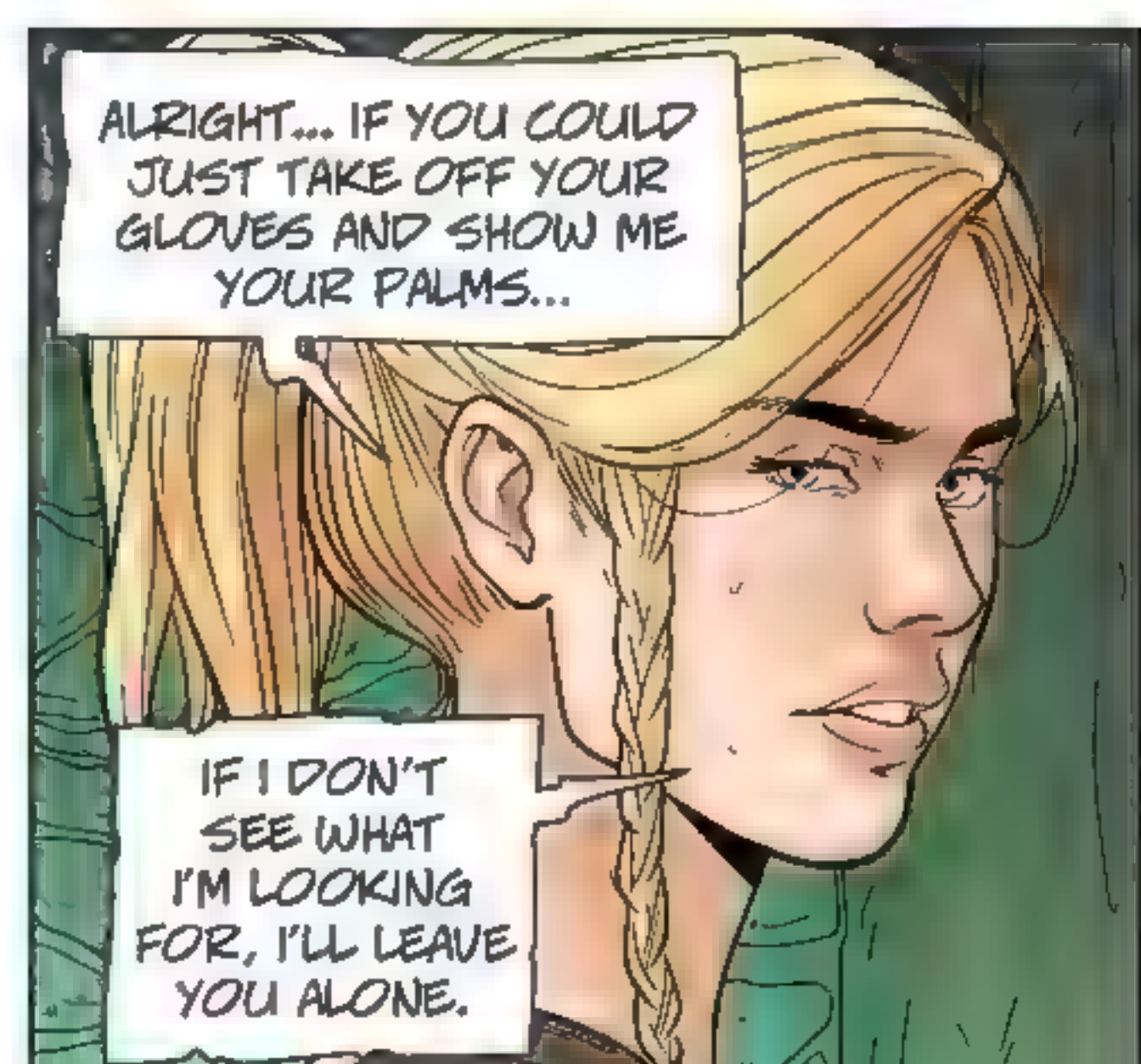
SWENBORG  
WAS MURDERED  
BY SOMEONE WITH  
SUPER-HUMAN  
STRENGTH...

...AND YOU HAVE  
AS MANY CLAWS  
AS A SIREN.



YOU ACCUSE  
ME OF KILLING  
HIM? HAHA!

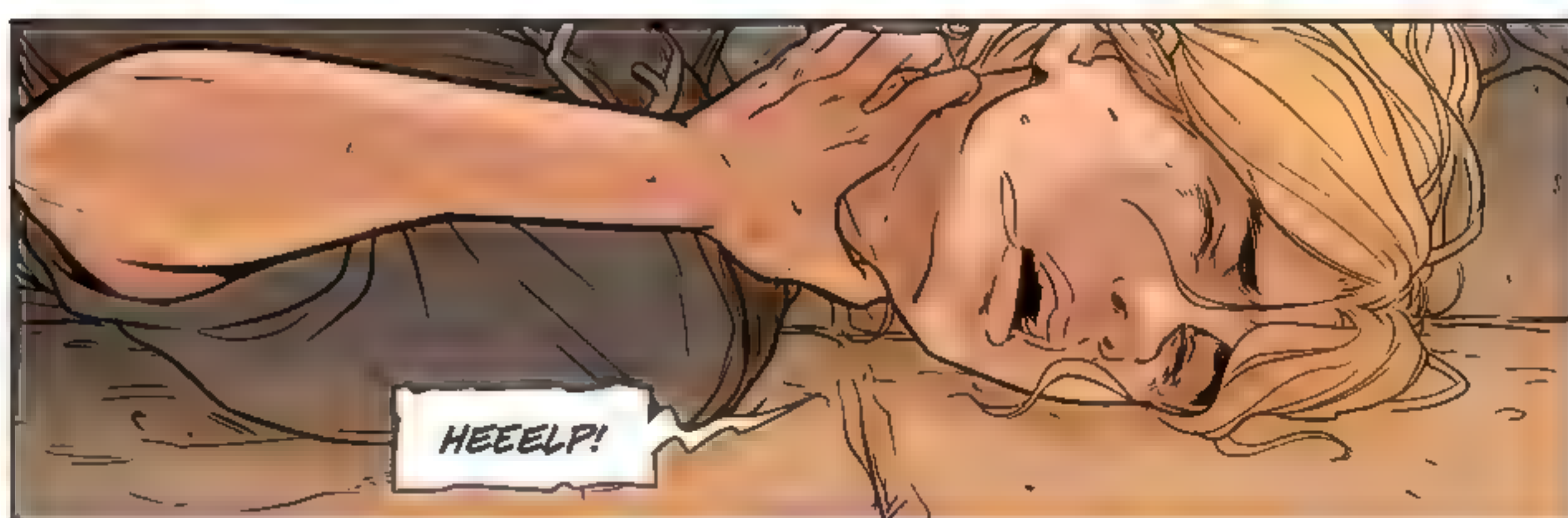
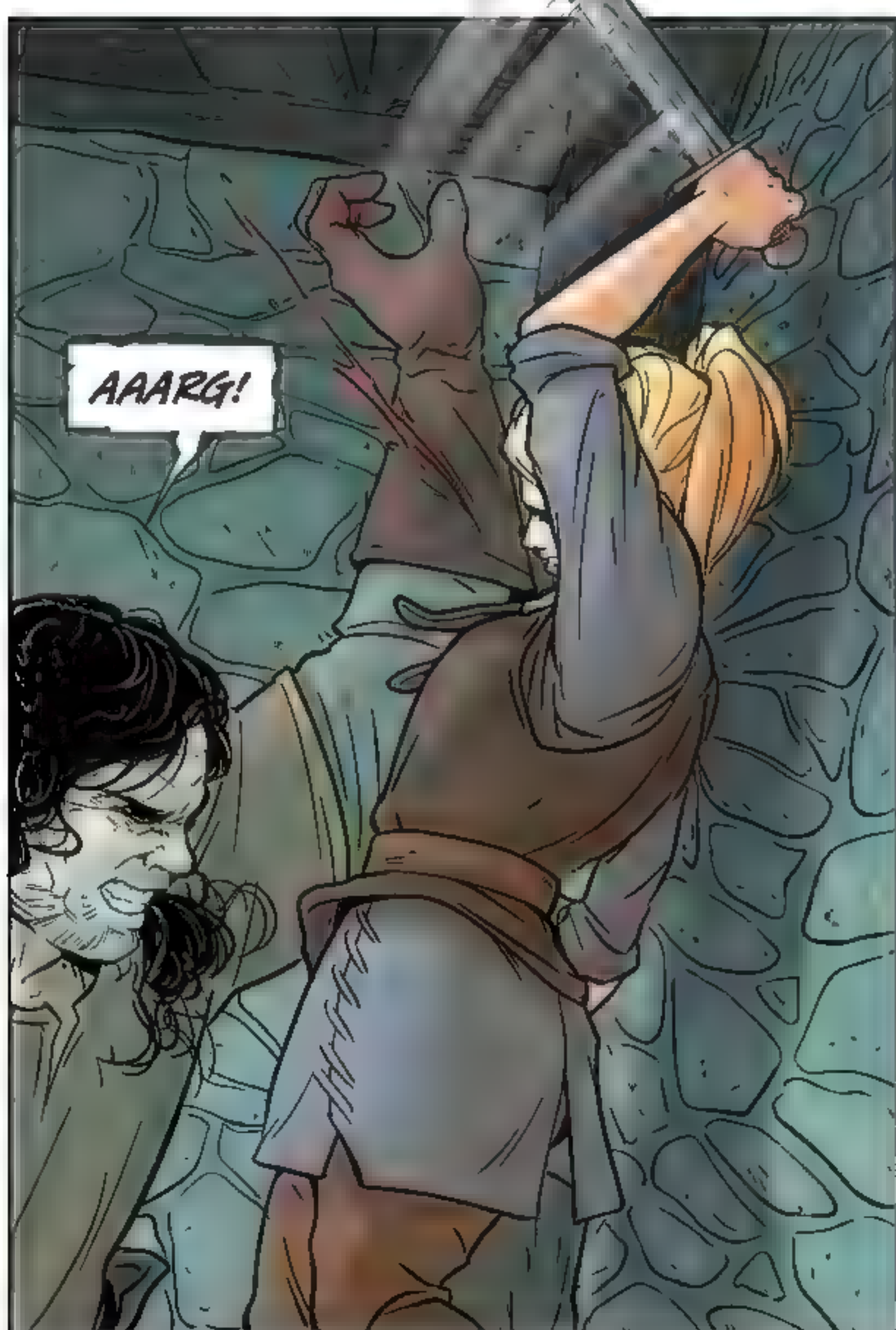
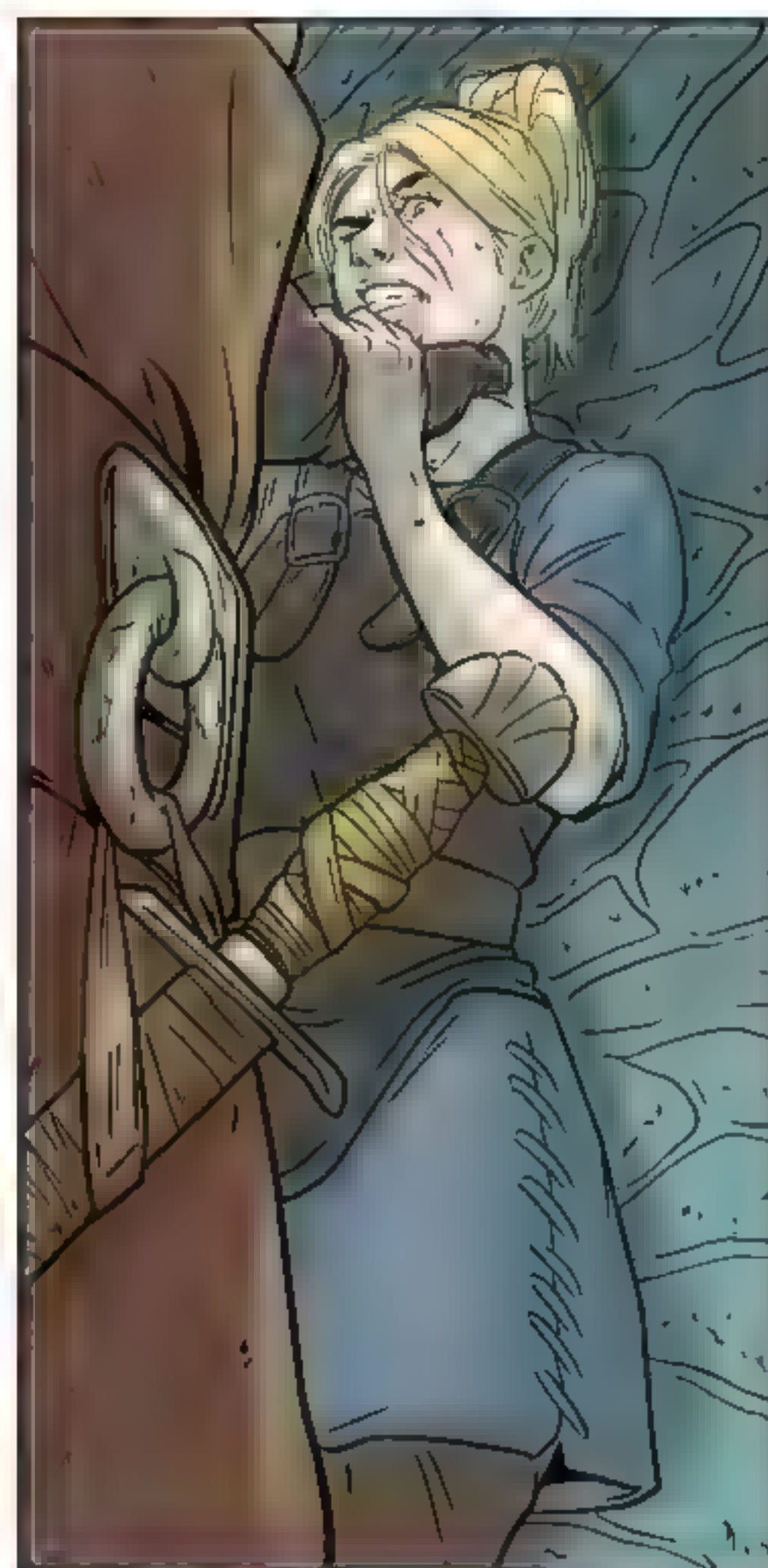
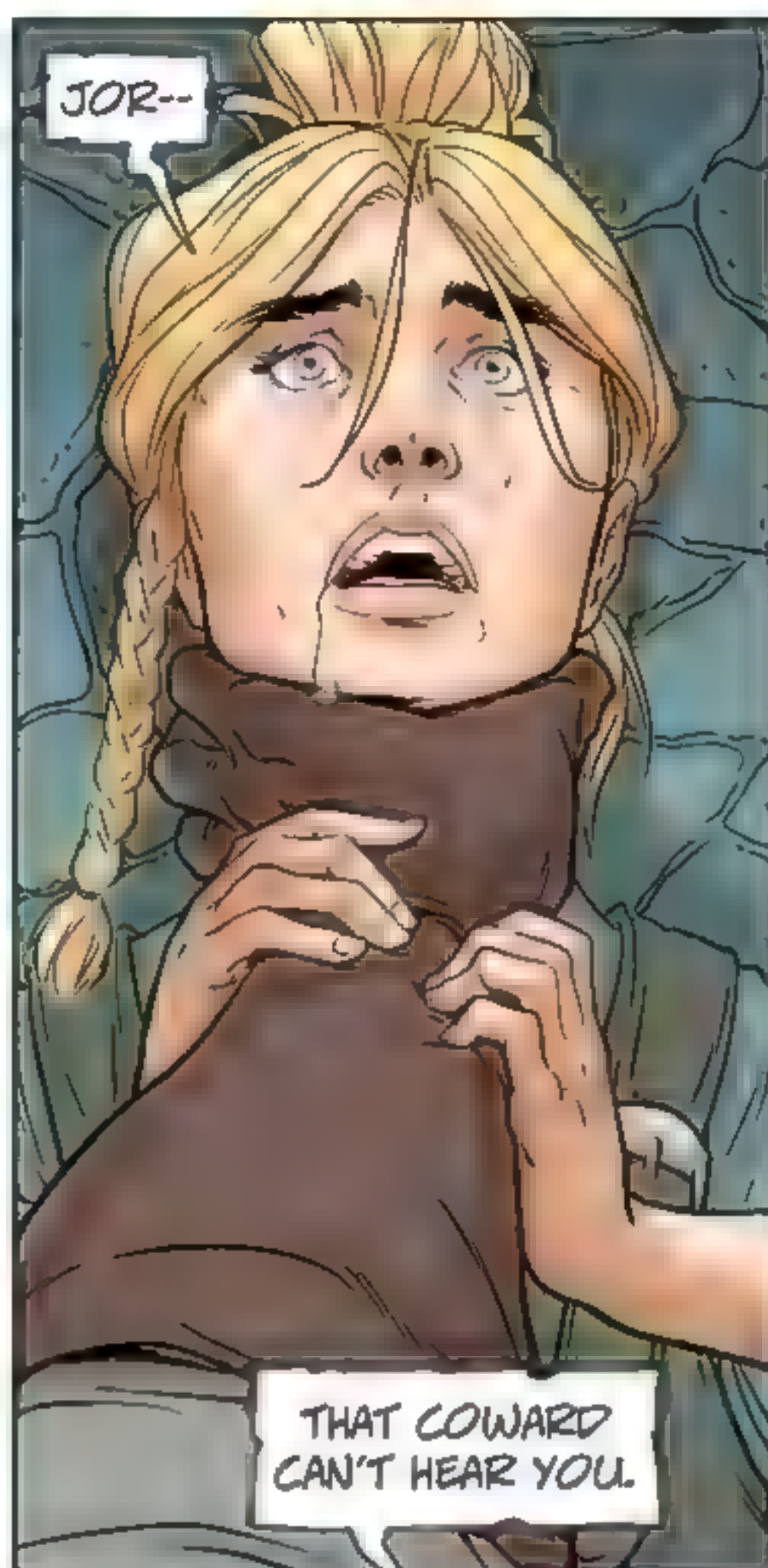
THE PAIR OF US KNEW EACH OTHER  
SINCE WE WERE KIDS. I WAS MORE  
OF A BROTHER TO HIM THAN THAT  
DEGENERATE, JORUND.



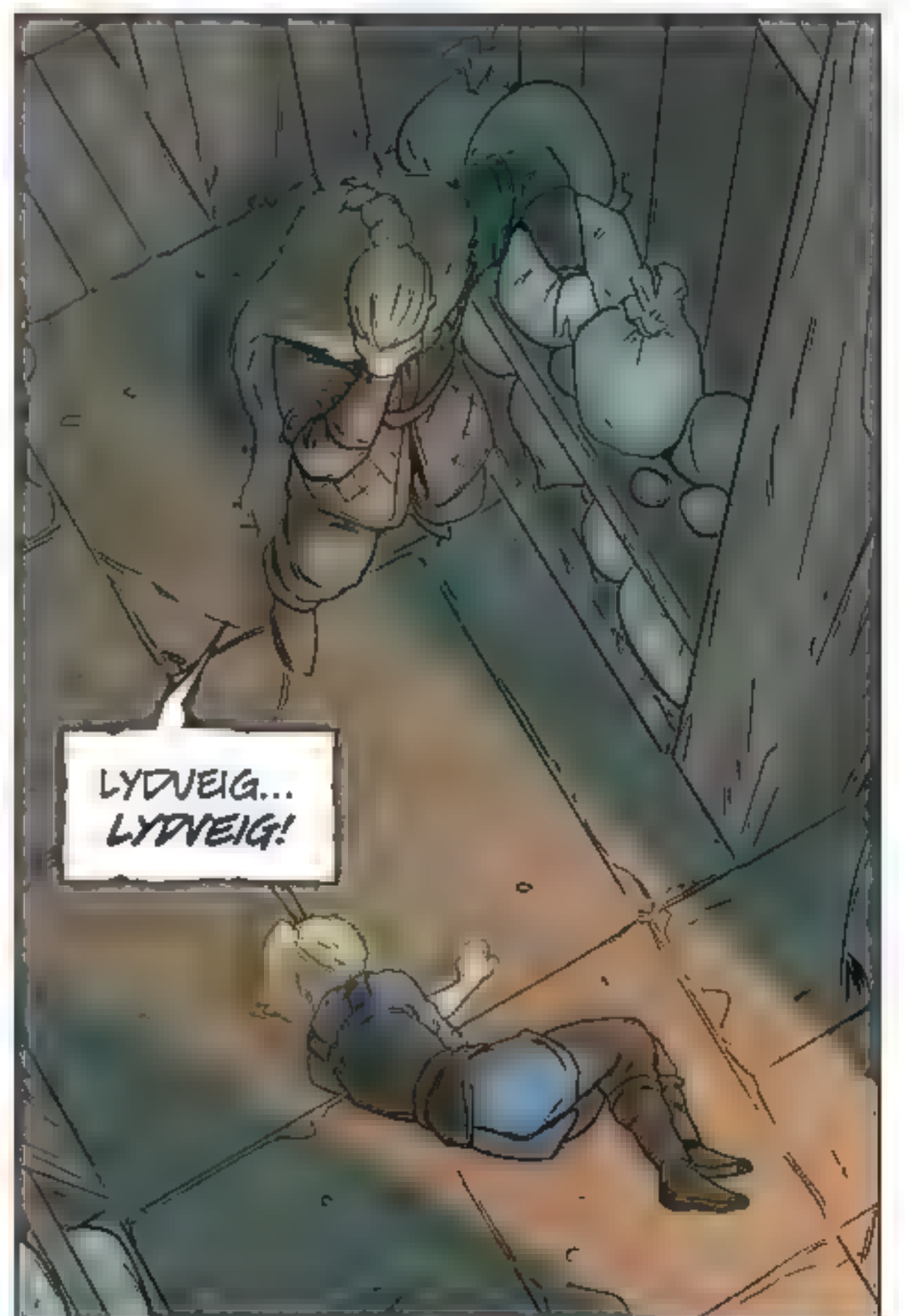
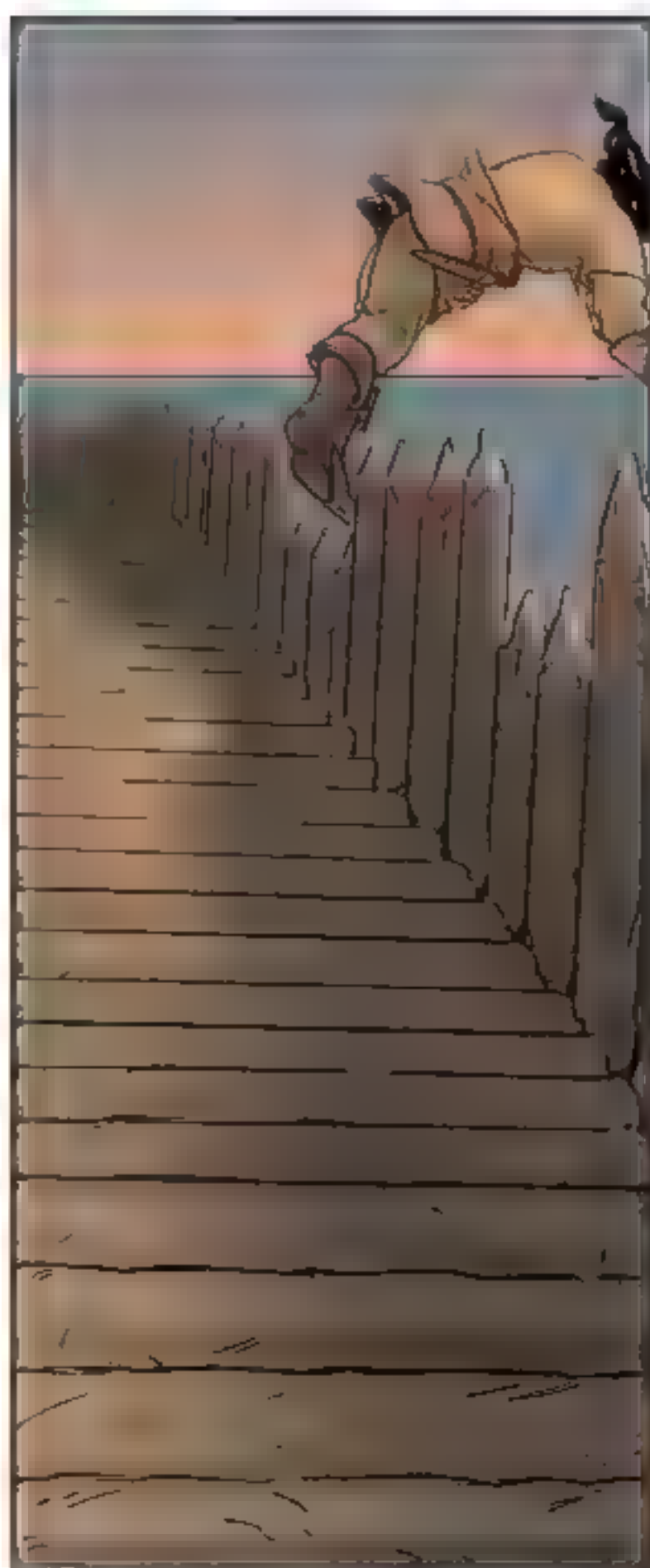
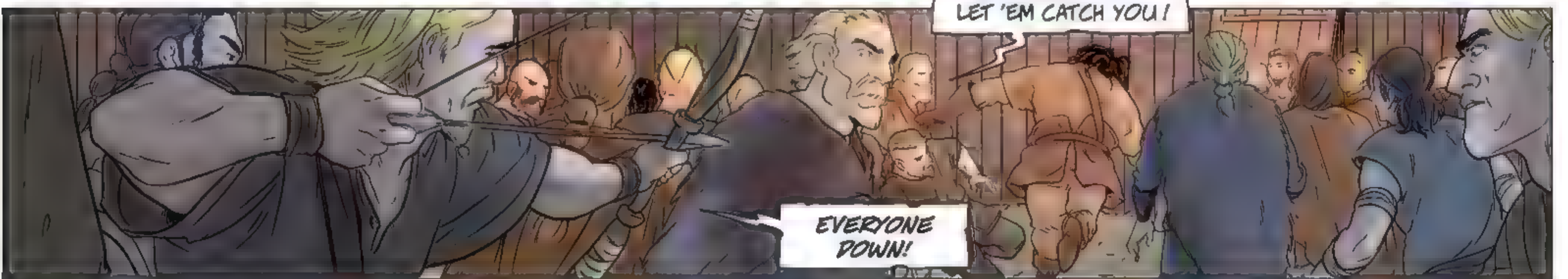
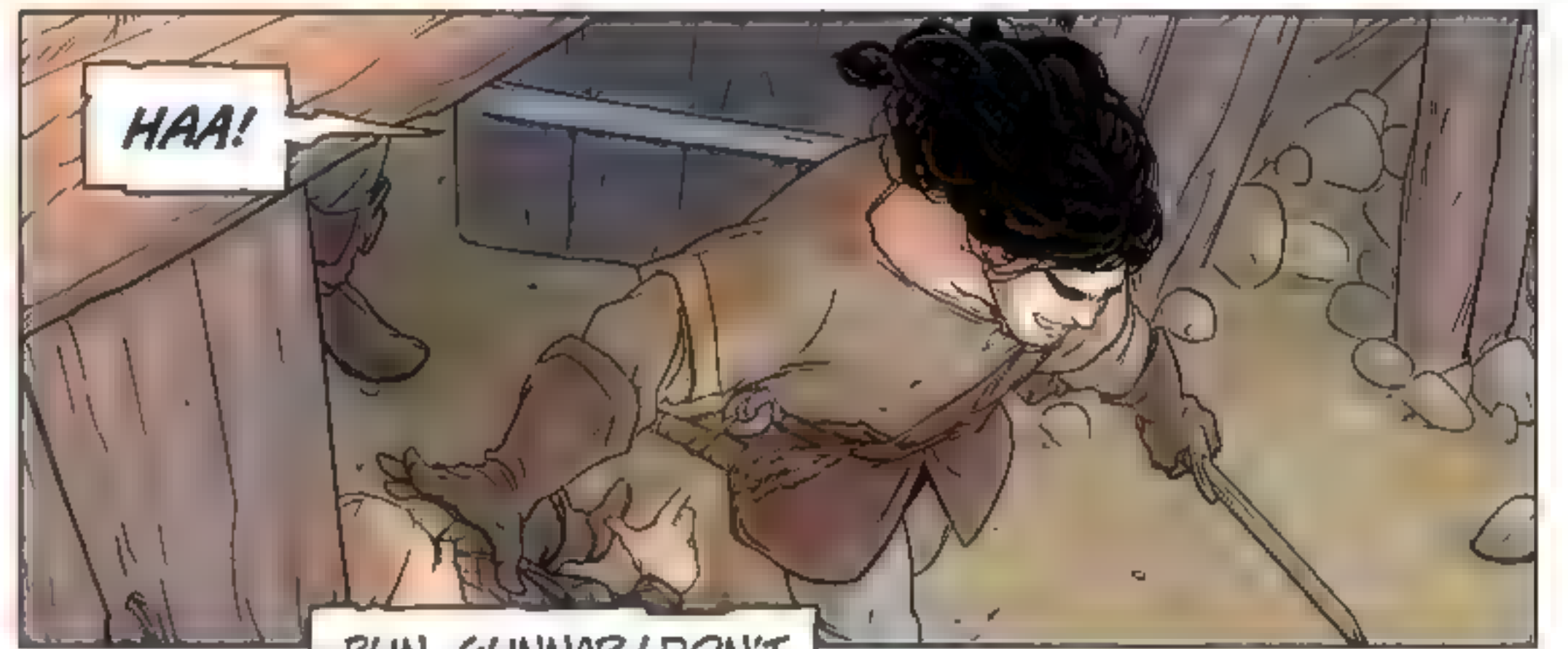
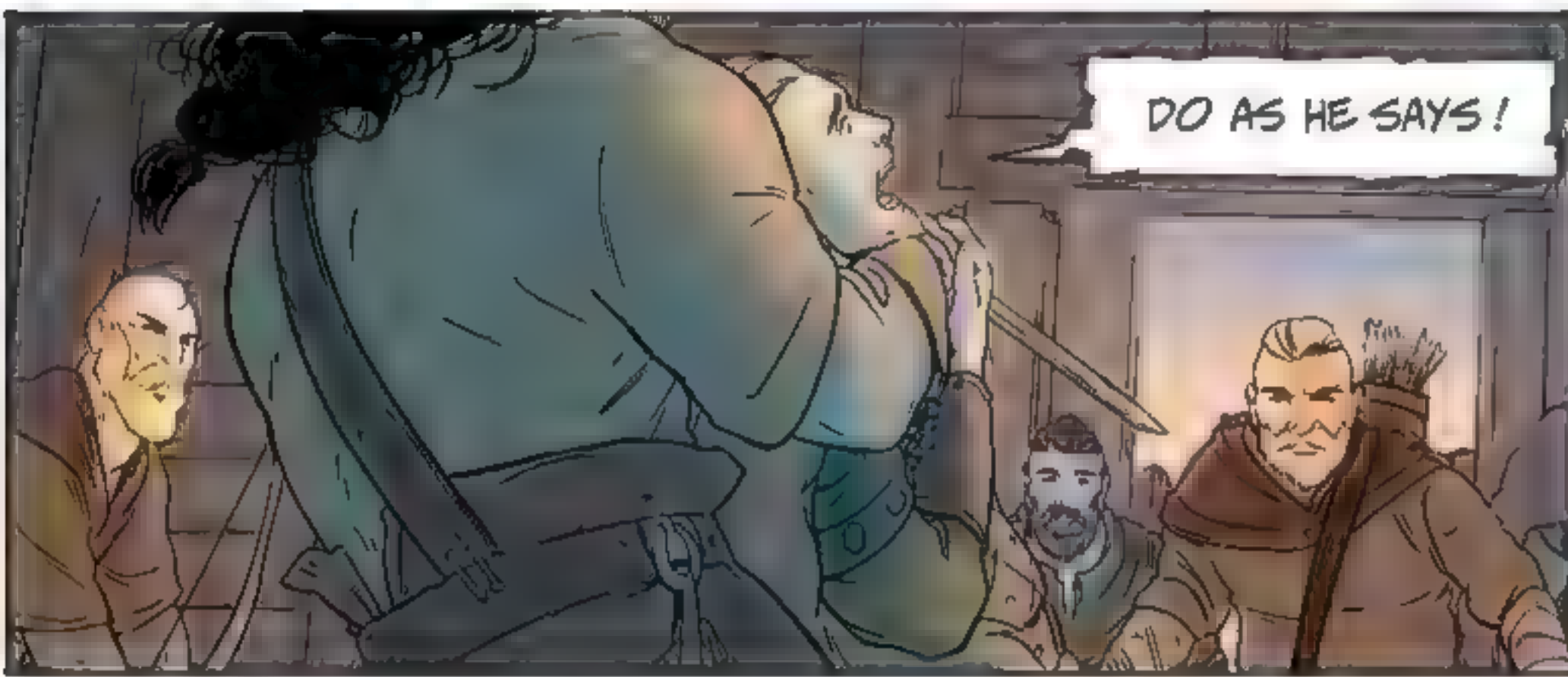
ALRIGHT... IF YOU COULD  
JUST TAKE OFF YOUR  
GLOVES AND SHOW ME  
YOUR PALMS...

IF I DON'T  
SEE WHAT  
I'M LOOKING  
FOR, I'LL LEAVE  
YOU ALONE.

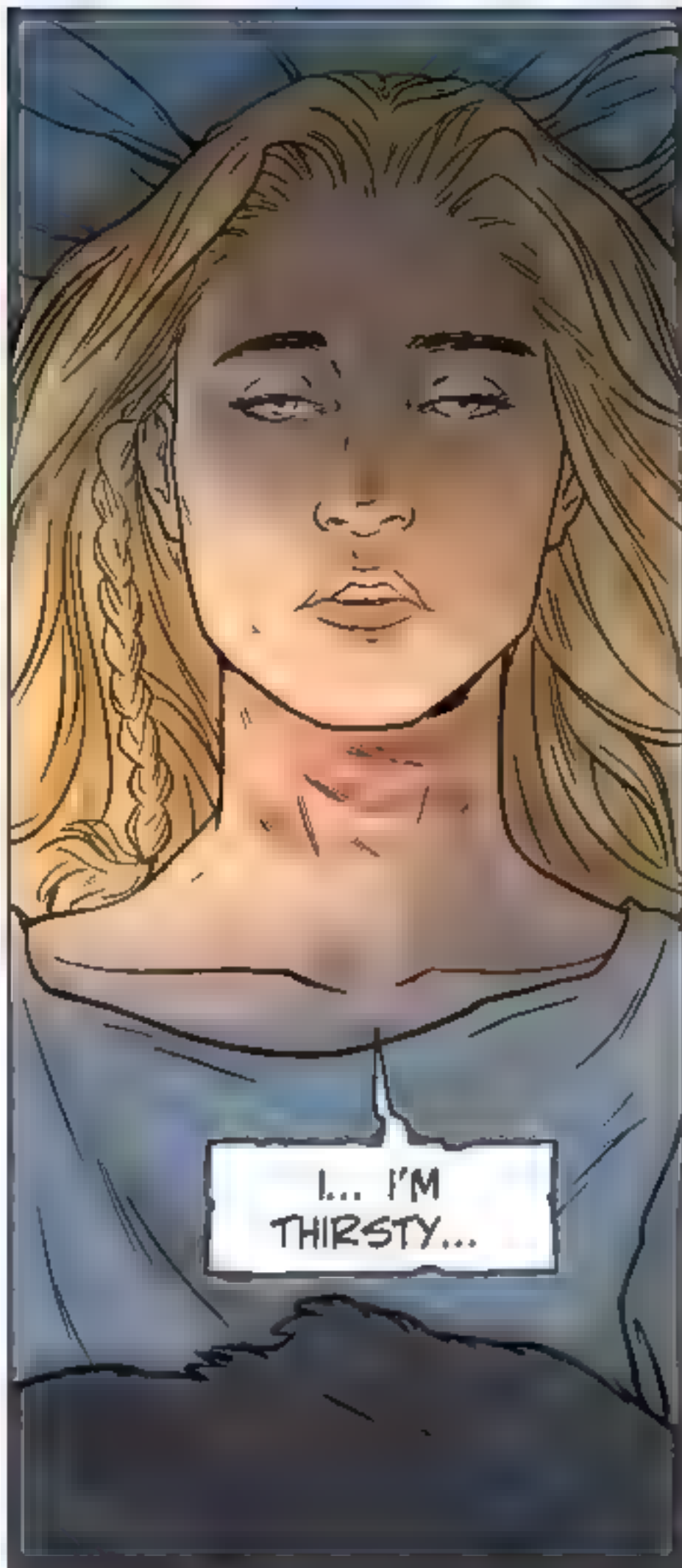




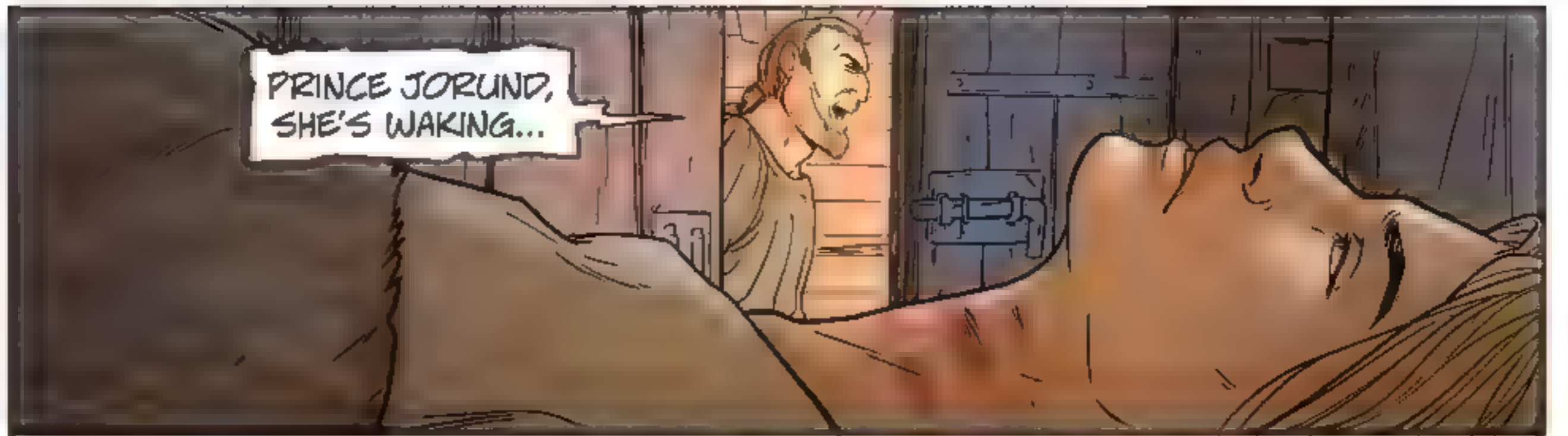




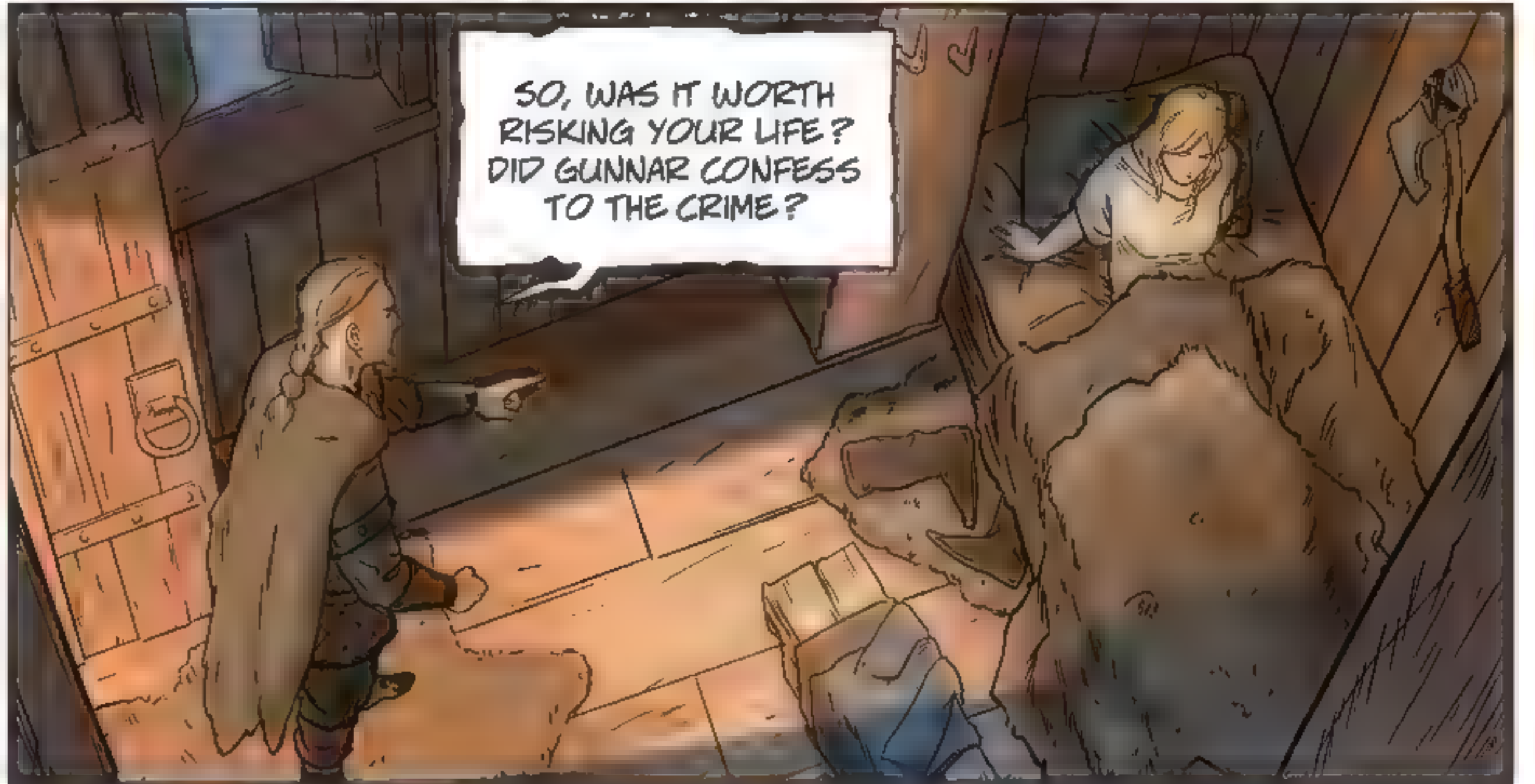




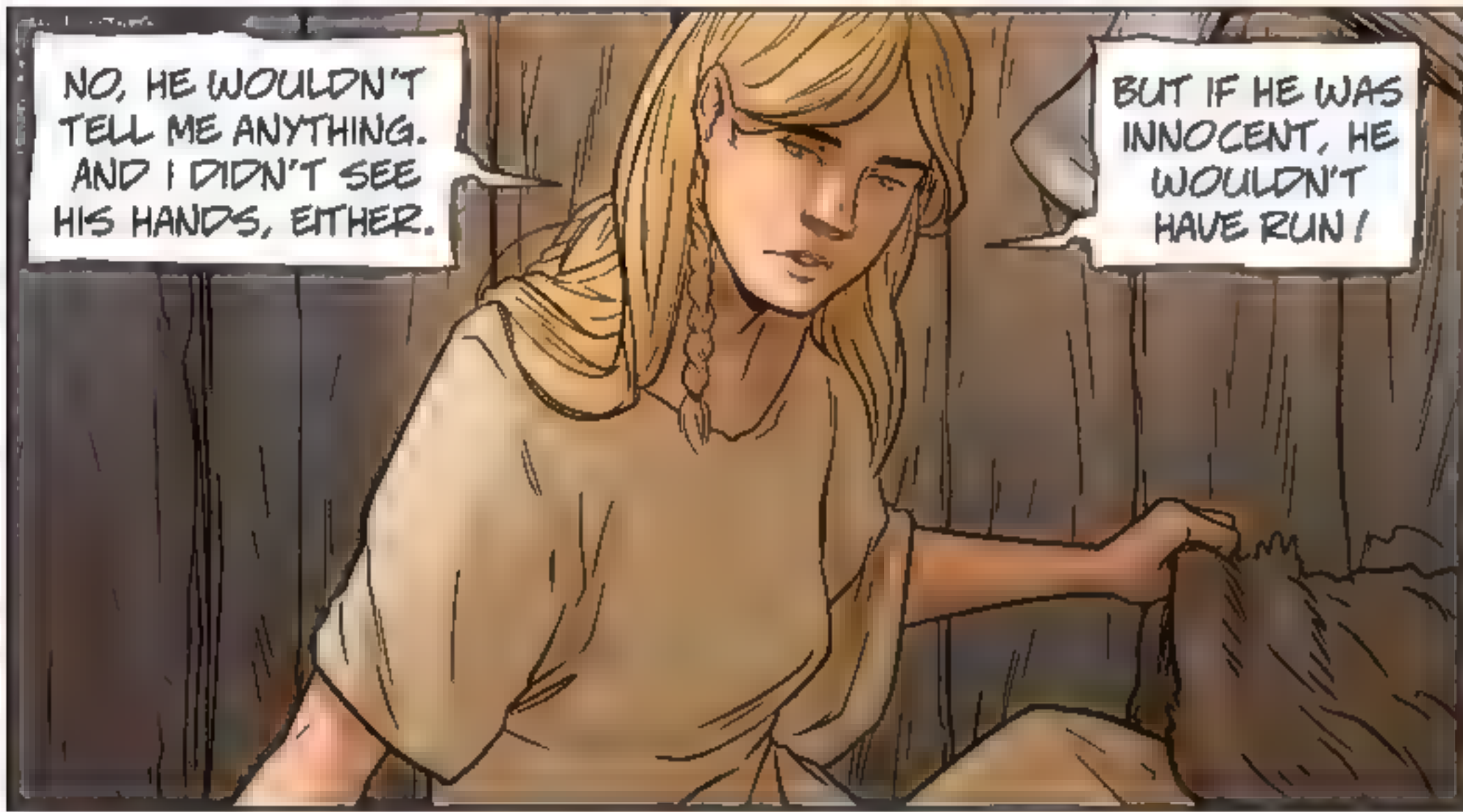
I... I'M THIRSTY...



PRINCE JORUND, SHE'S WAKING...

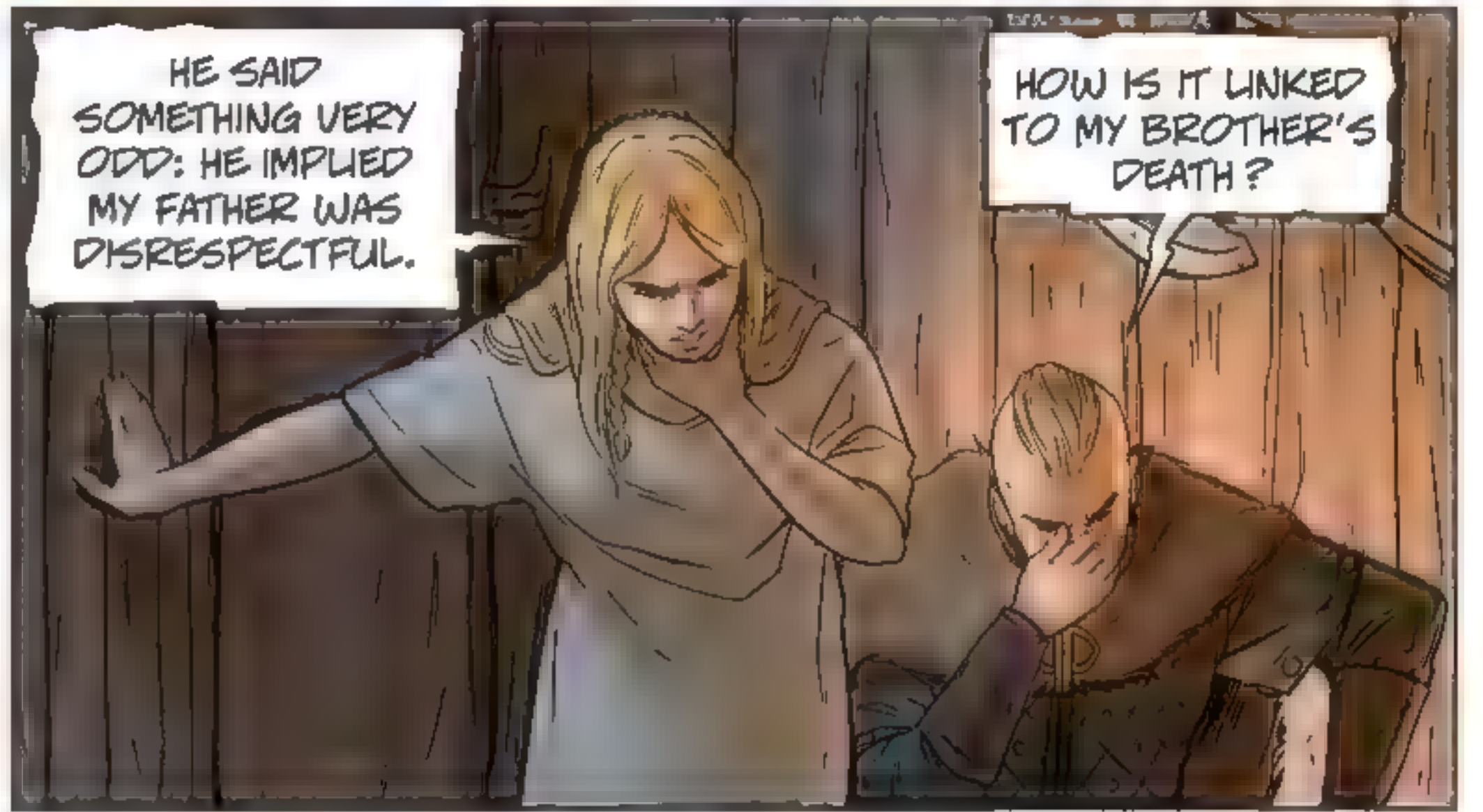


SO, WAS IT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE? DID GUNNAR CONFESS TO THE CRIME?



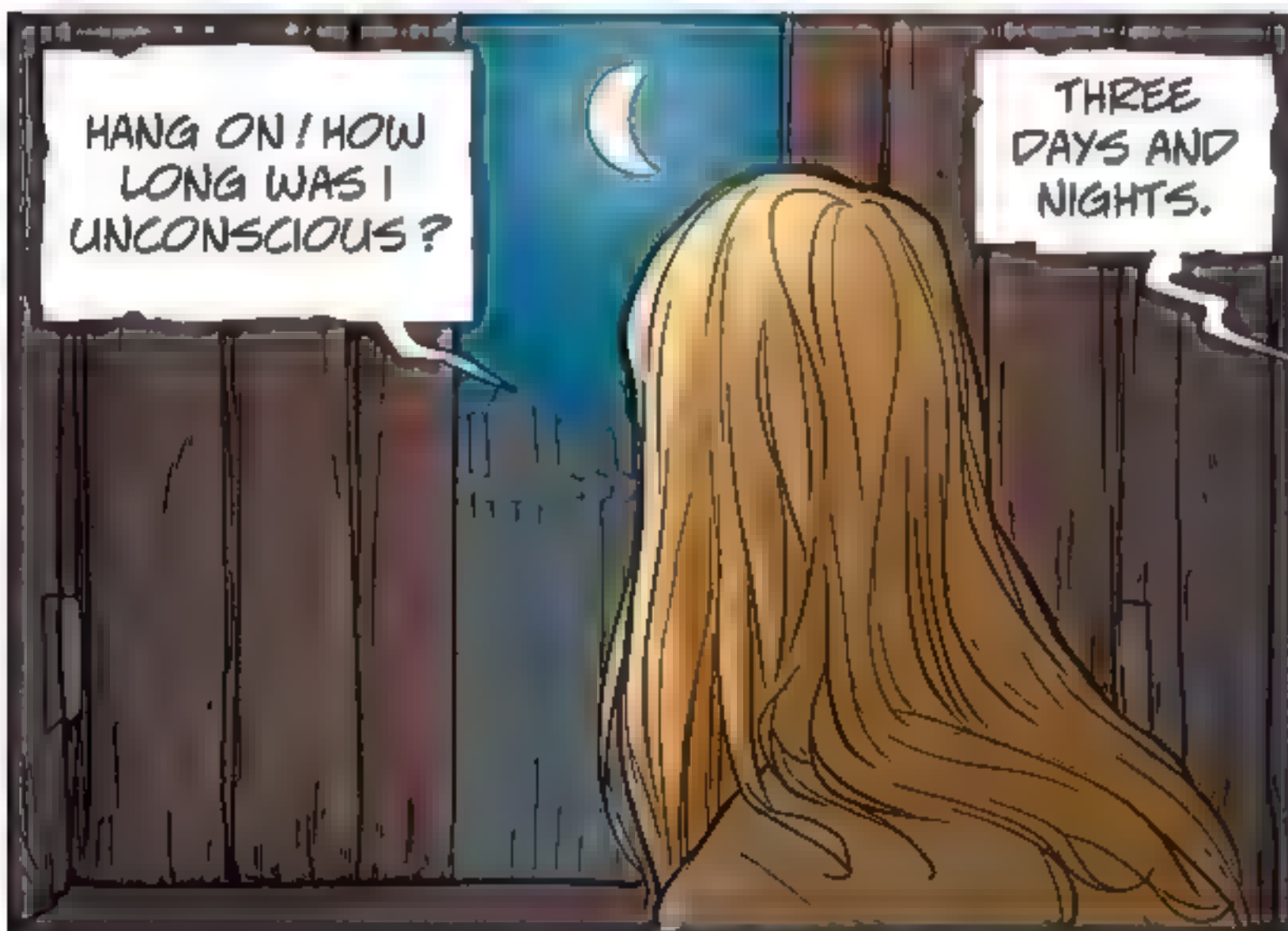
NO, HE WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING. AND I DIDN'T SEE HIS HANDS, EITHER.

BUT IF HE WAS INNOCENT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE RUN!



HE SAID SOMETHING VERY ODD: HE IMPLIED MY FATHER WAS DISRESPECTFUL.

HOW IS IT LINKED TO MY BROTHER'S DEATH?



HANG ON! HOW LONG WAS I UNCONSCIOUS?

THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS.



NO, NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! TOVA! MY DARLING, I...

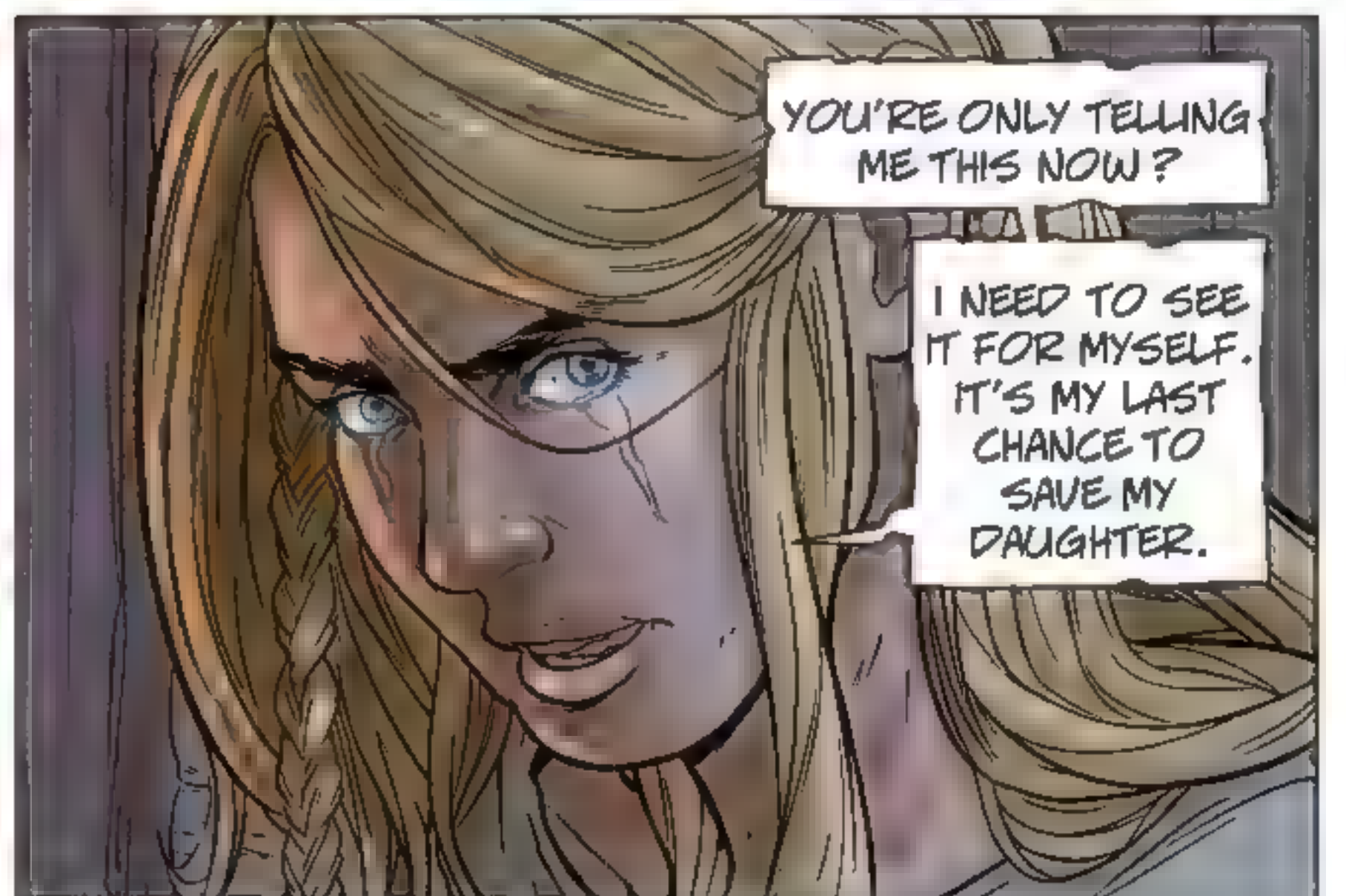
JORUND, WHERE IS MY FATHER'S BODY NOW? PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU BURNED IT...

I NEED TO SEE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



I'M NOT SURE WHAT STATE YOUR FATHER'S IN NOW... HE DIDN'T DIE HERE.

GUNNAR FOUND HIM IN HIS HOUSE, HALF A DAY'S RIDE FROM HERE. KILLED AND MUTILATED BY A SIREN, JUST LIKE MY BROTHER.



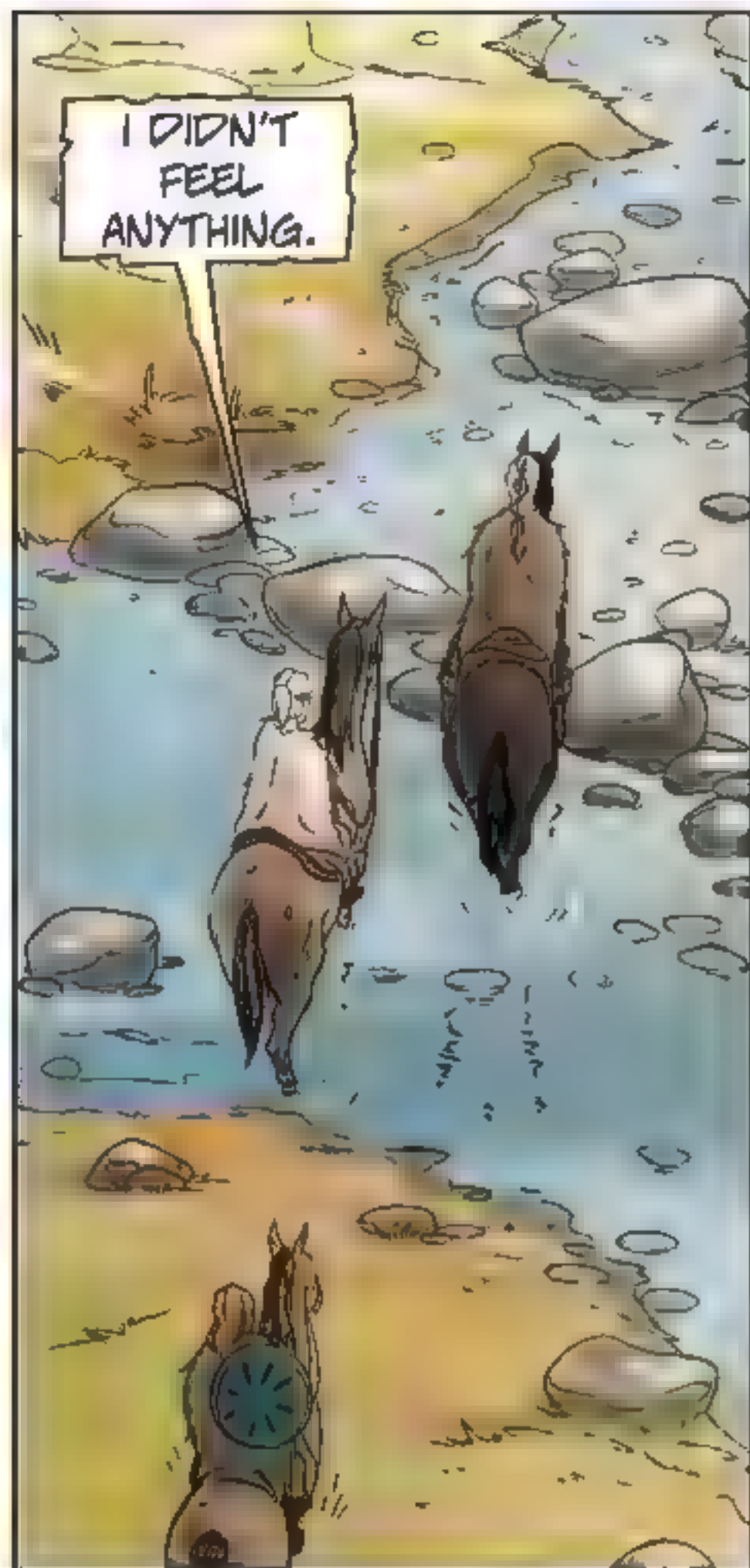
YOU'RE ONLY TELLING ME THIS NOW?

I NEED TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF. IT'S MY LAST CHANCE TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER.





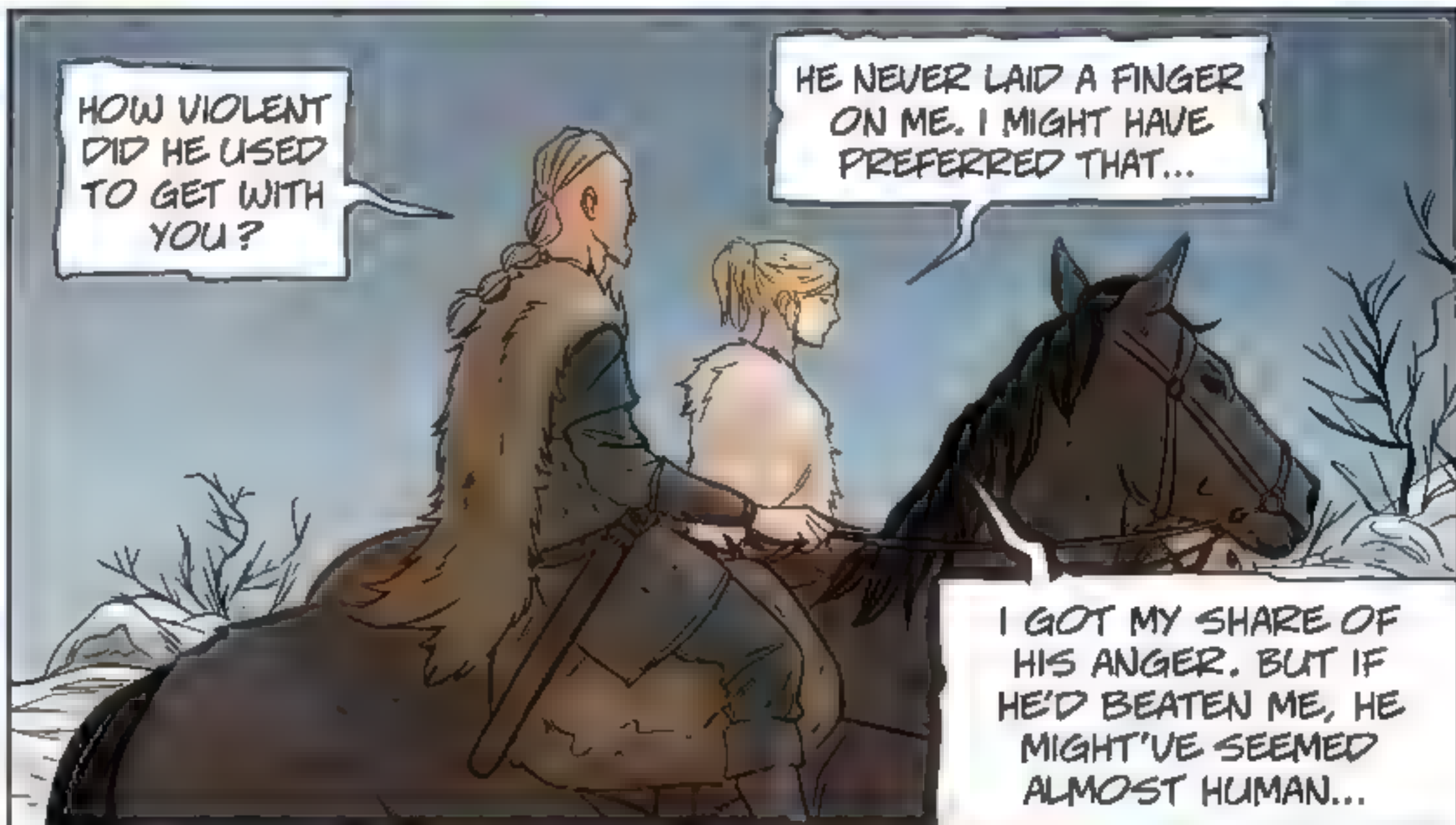
HOW DID IT MAKE YOU  
FEEL WHEN MY FATHER'S  
MEN BROUGHT YOU YOUR  
FATHER'S HEAD?



I DIDN'T  
FEEL  
ANYTHING.



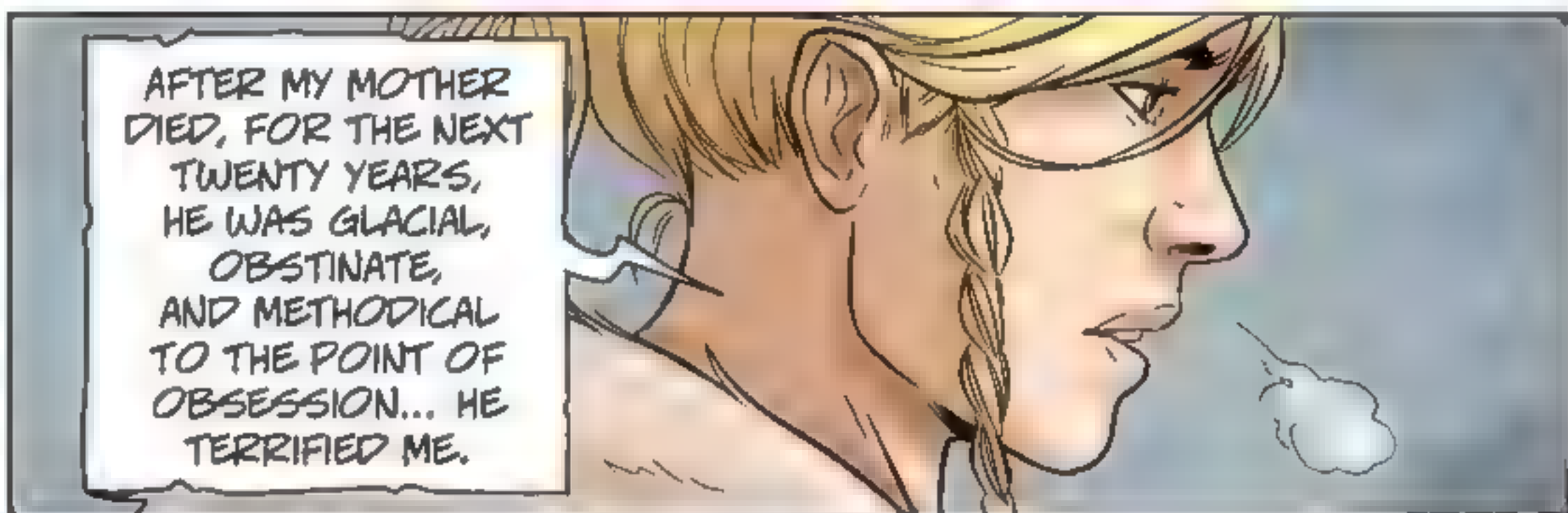
NOT  
EVEN THE  
LIBERATION  
I WAS  
HOPING FOR.



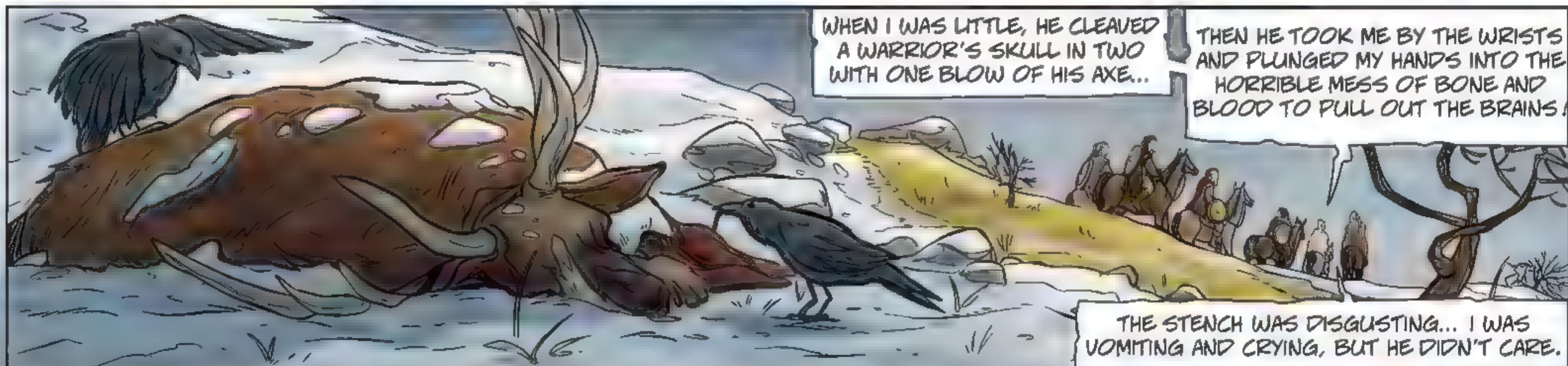
HOW VIOLENT  
DID HE USED  
TO GET WITH  
YOU?

HE NEVER LAID A FINGER  
ON ME. I MIGHT HAVE  
PREFERRED THAT...

I GOT MY SHARE OF  
HIS ANGER. BUT IF  
HE'D BEATEN ME, HE  
MIGHT'VE SEEMED  
ALMOST HUMAN...



AFTER MY MOTHER  
DIED, FOR THE NEXT  
TWENTY YEARS,  
HE WAS GLACIAL,  
OBSTINATE,  
AND METHODICAL  
TO THE POINT OF  
OBSESSION... HE  
TERRIFIED ME.



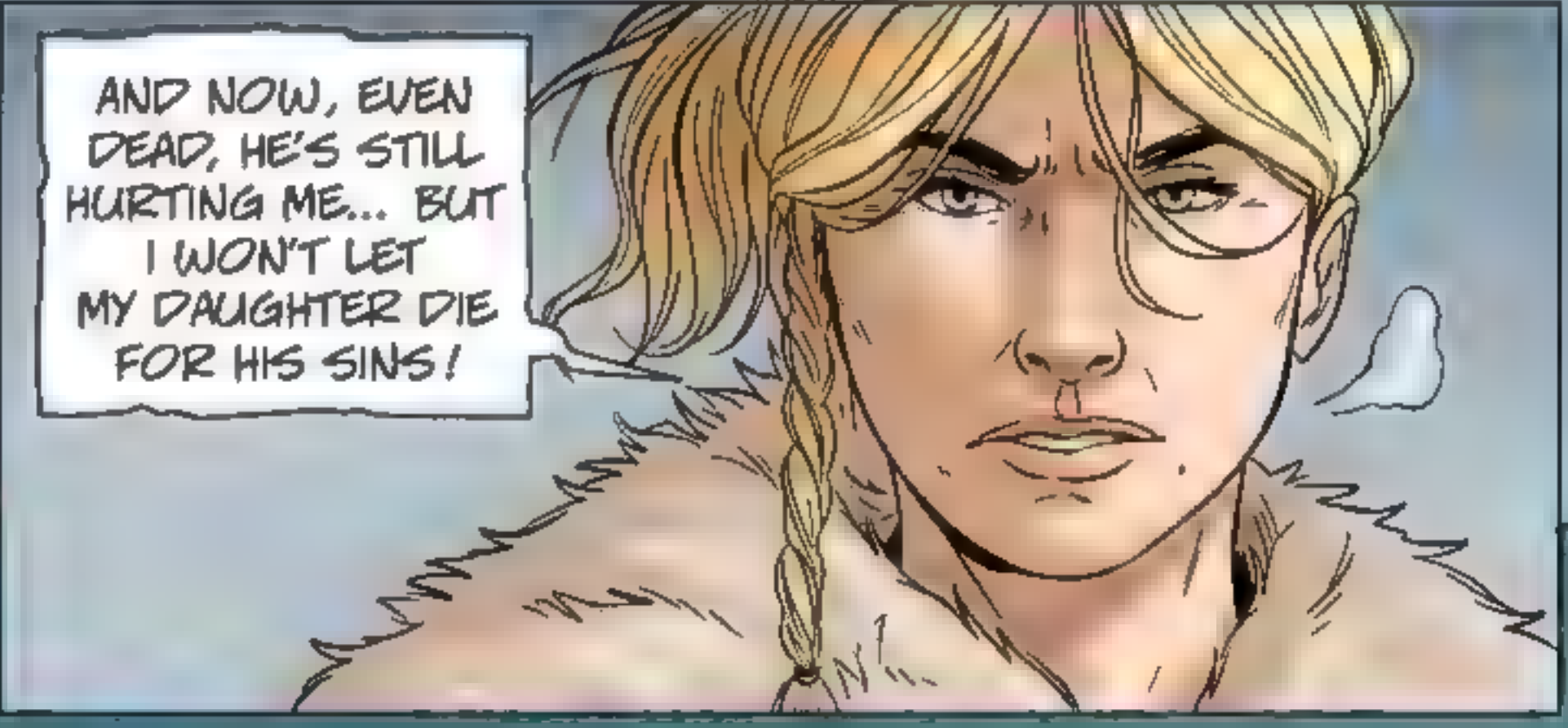
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, HE CLEAVED  
A WARRIOR'S SKULL IN TWO  
WITH ONE BLOW OF HIS AXE...

THEN HE TOOK ME BY THE WRISTS  
AND PLUNGED MY HANDS INTO THE  
HORRIBLE MESS OF BONE AND  
BLOOD TO PULL OUT THE BRAINS!

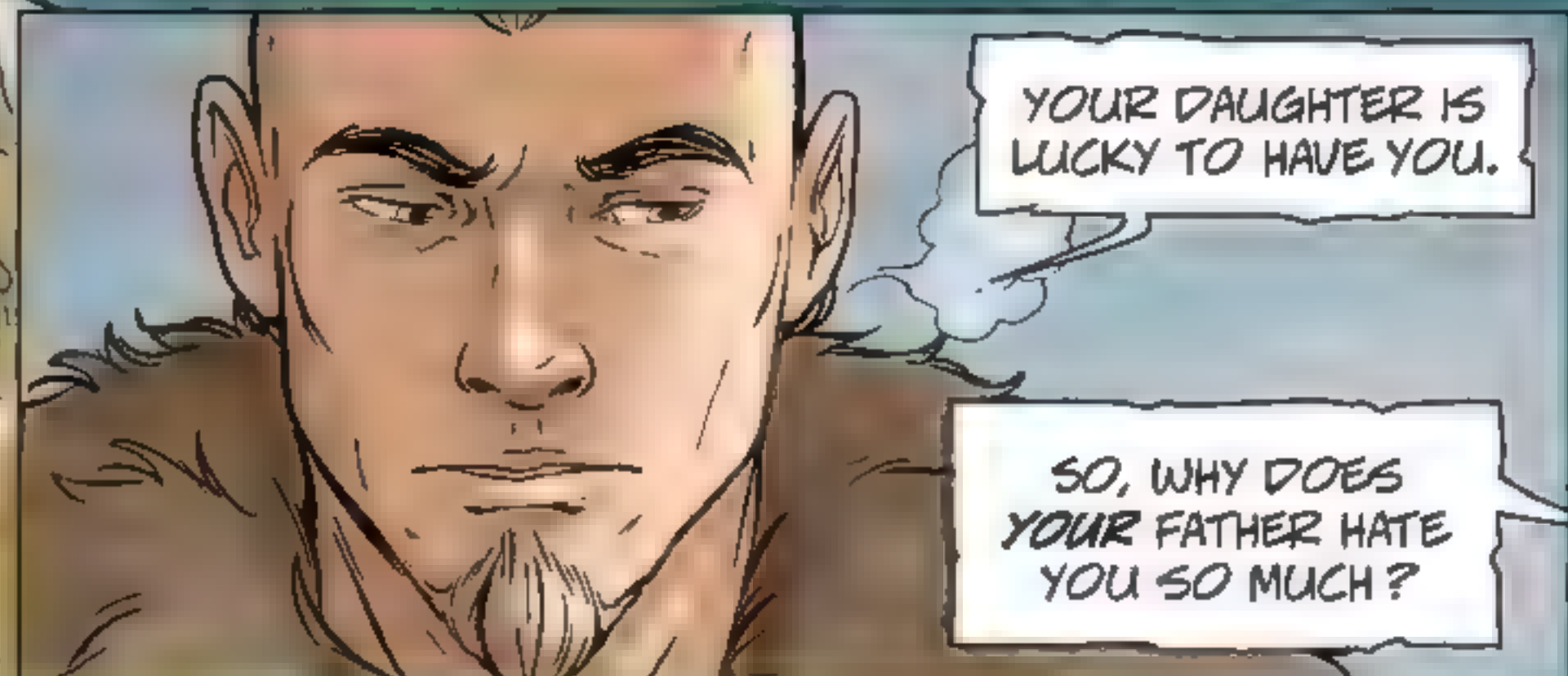
THE STENCH WAS DISGUSTING... I WAS  
VOMITING AND CRYING, BUT HE DIDN'T CARE.



ONE DAY I MET THE MAN WHO LATER  
BECAME MY LITTLE TOVA'S FATHER,  
AND WE RAN AWAY TOGETHER. I NEVER  
SAW AASBJORN AGAIN AFTER THAT.



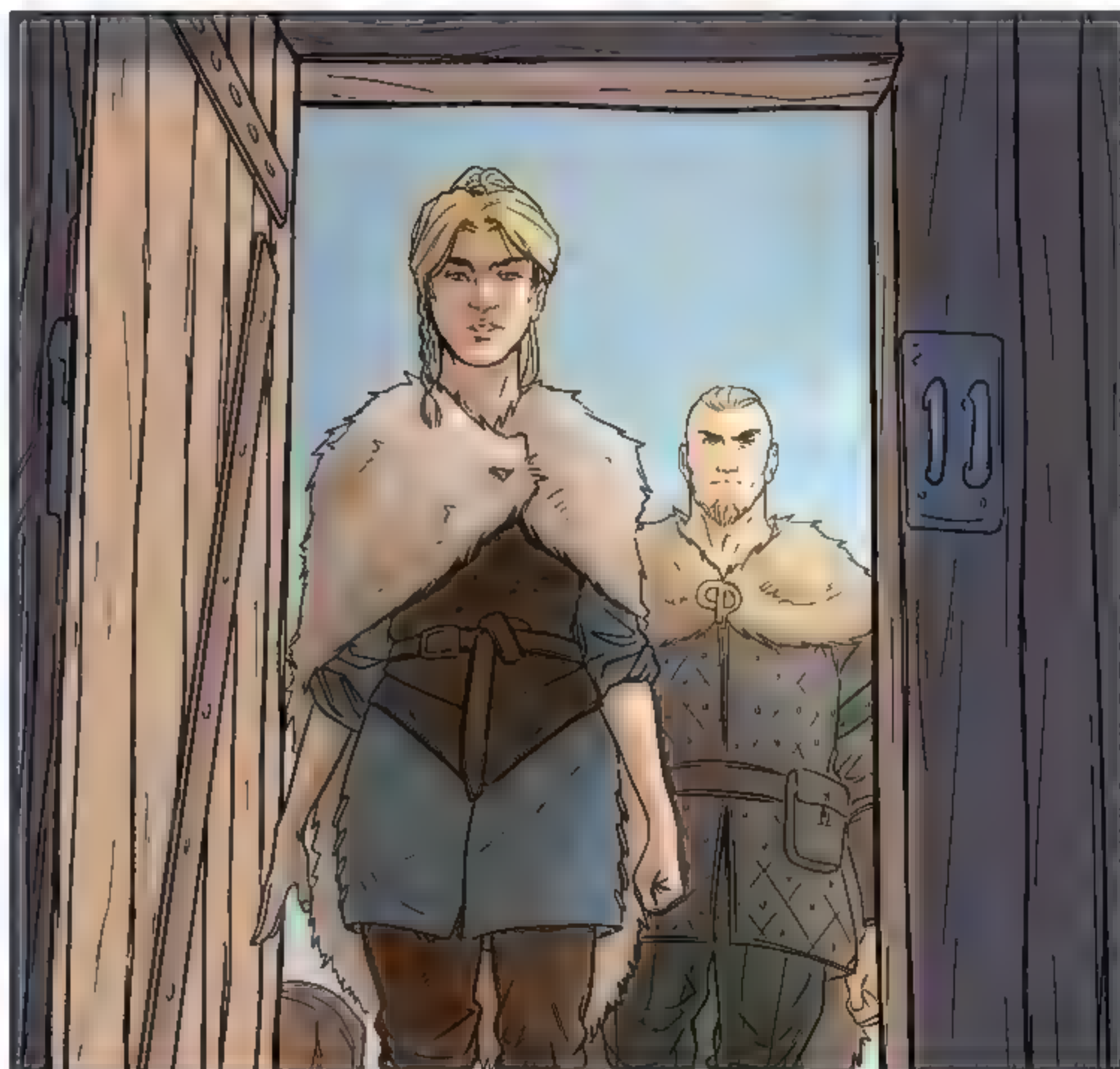
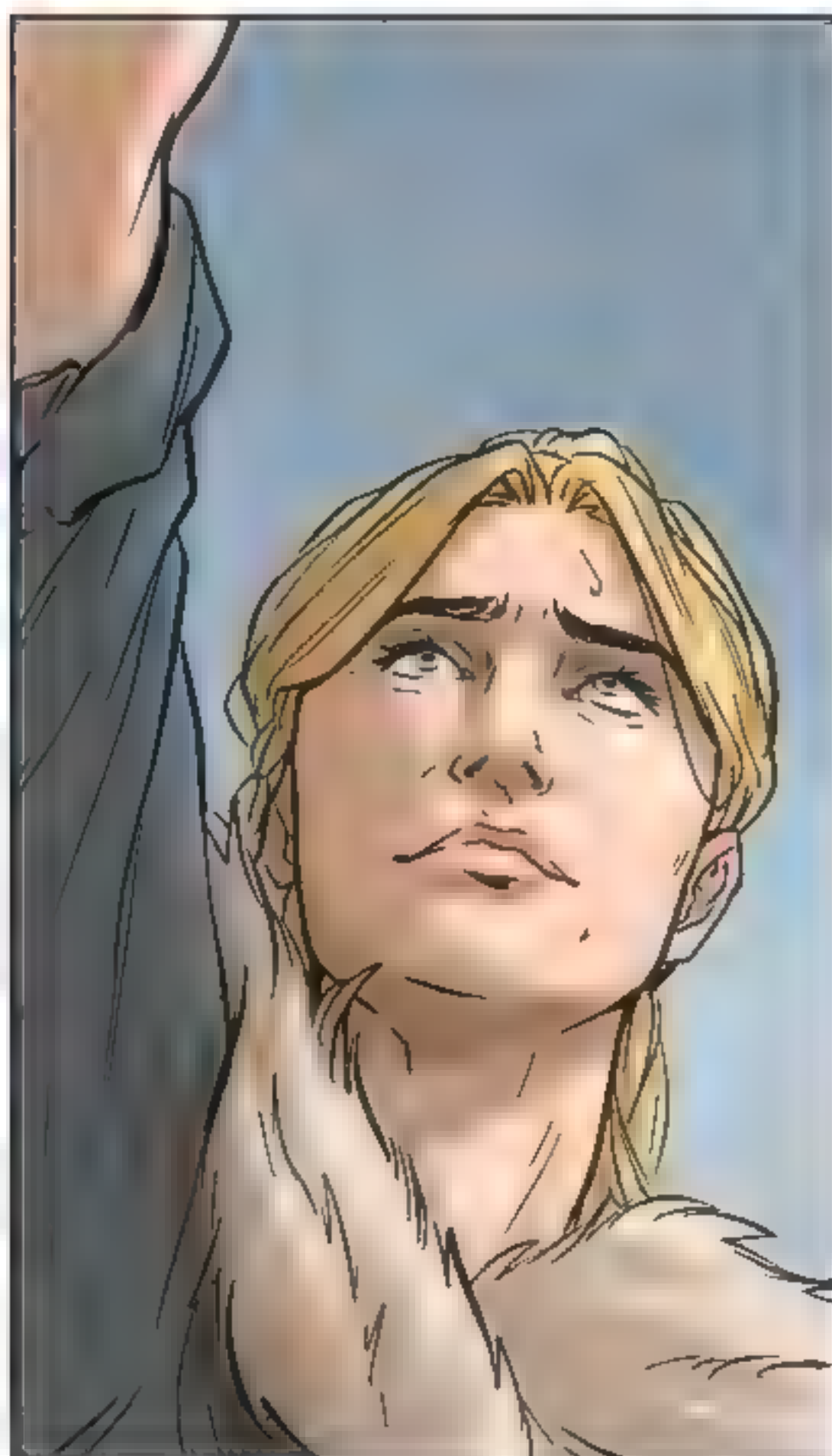
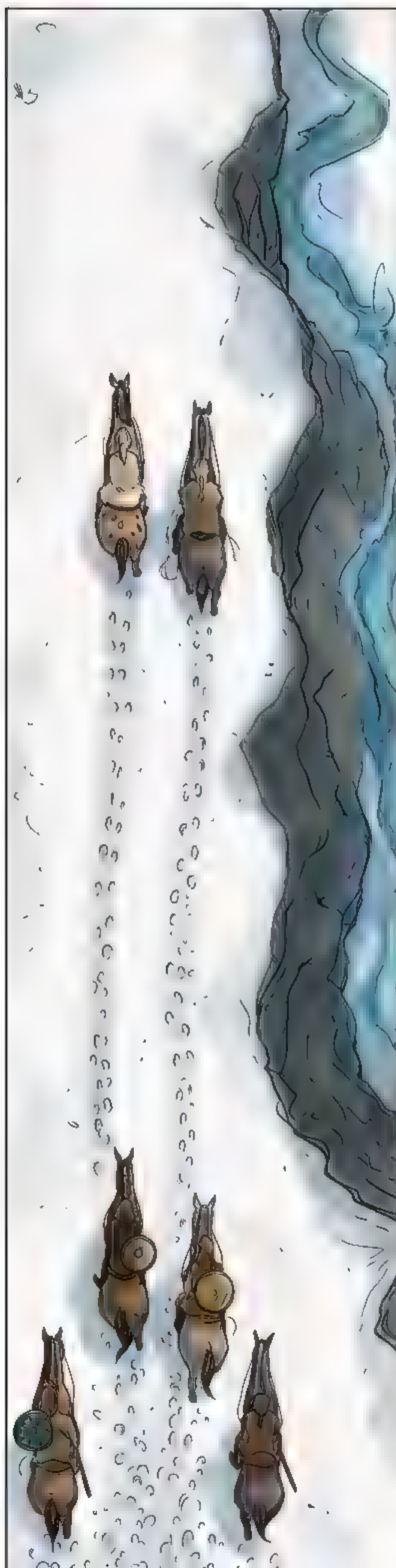
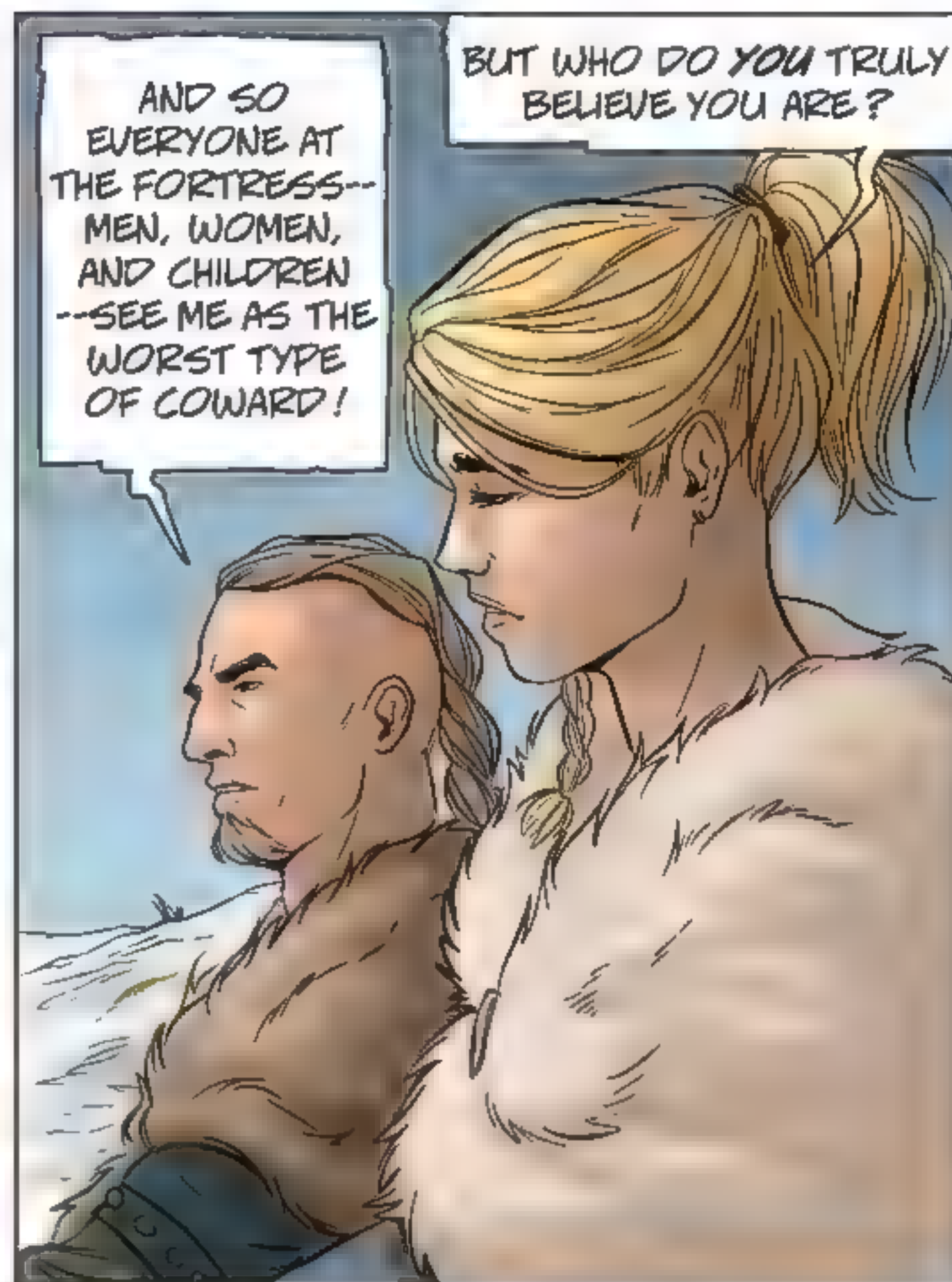
AND NOW, EVEN  
DEAD, HE'S STILL  
HURTING ME... BUT  
I WON'T LET  
MY DAUGHTER DIE  
FOR HIS SINS!



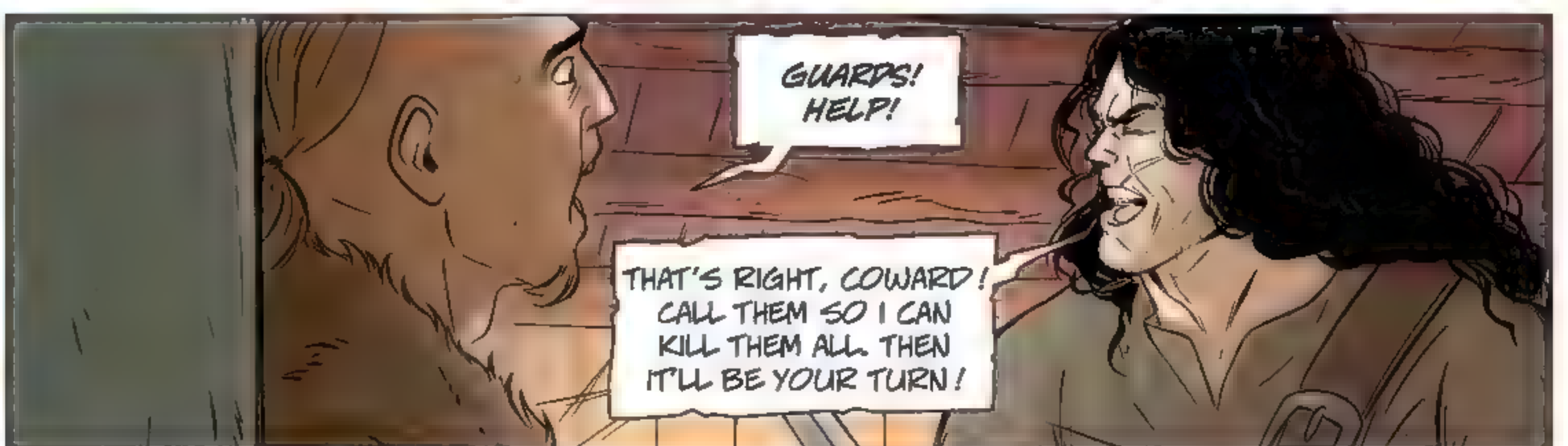
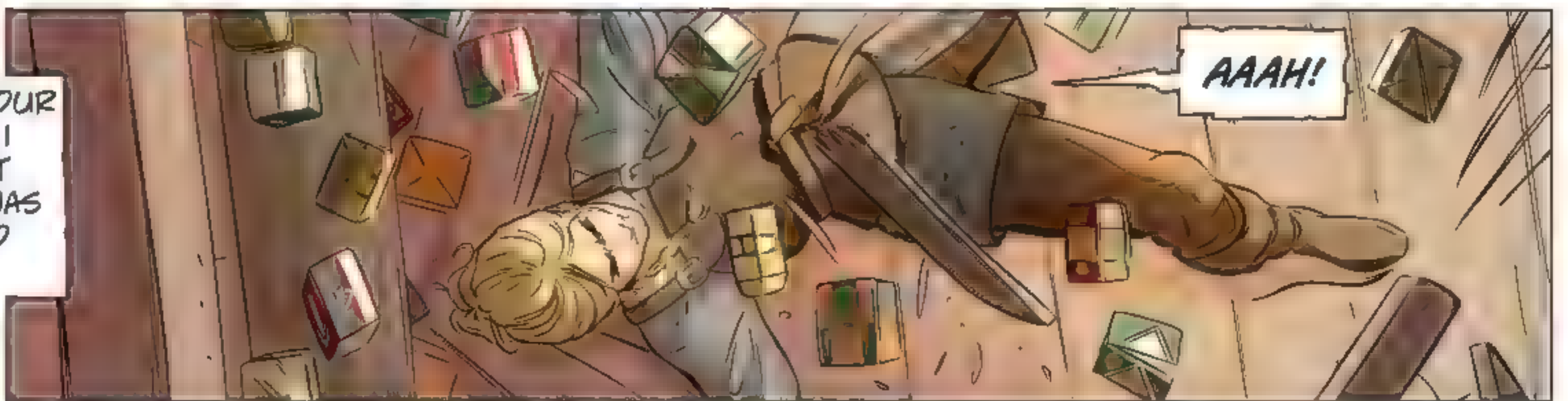
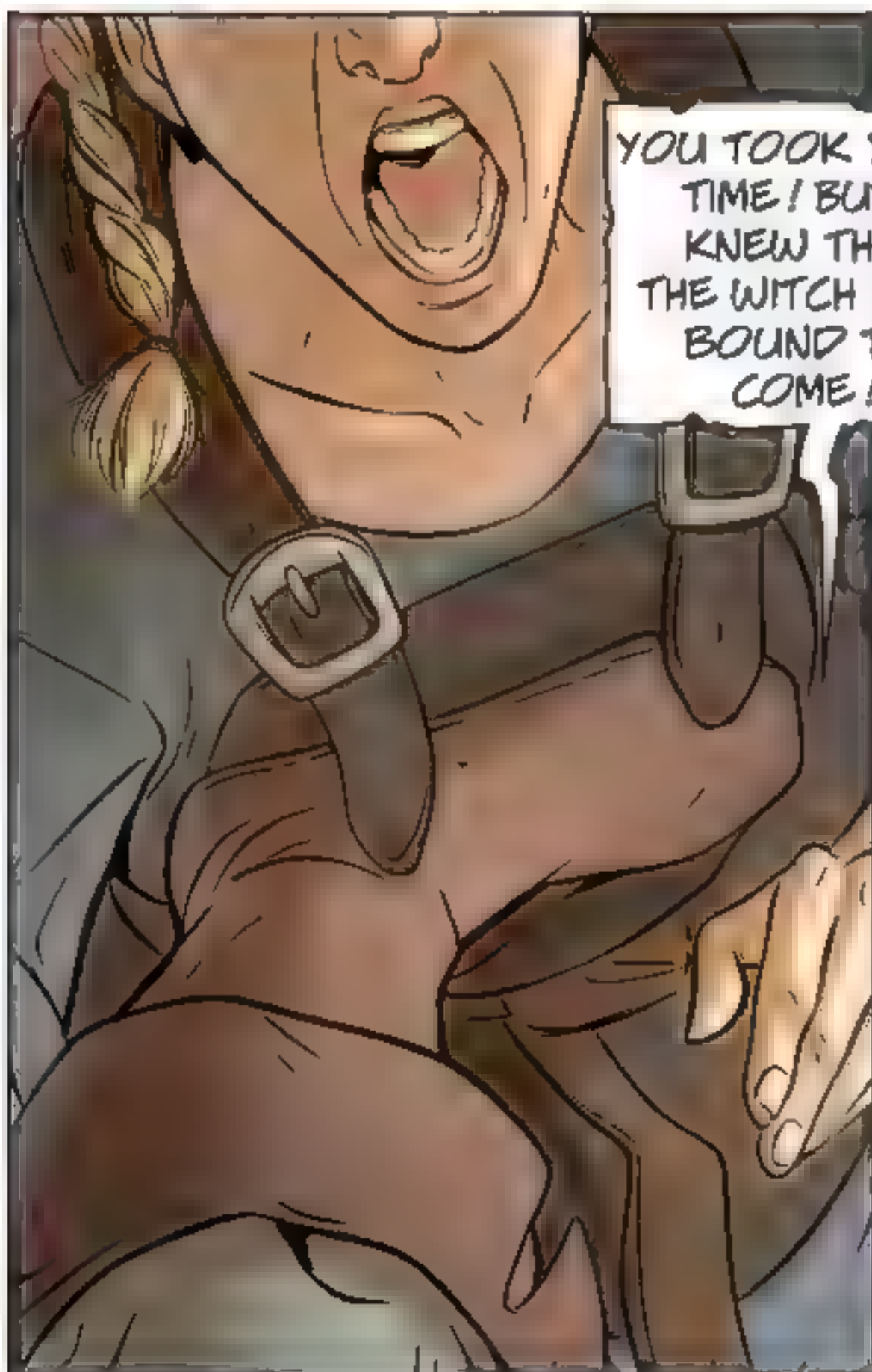
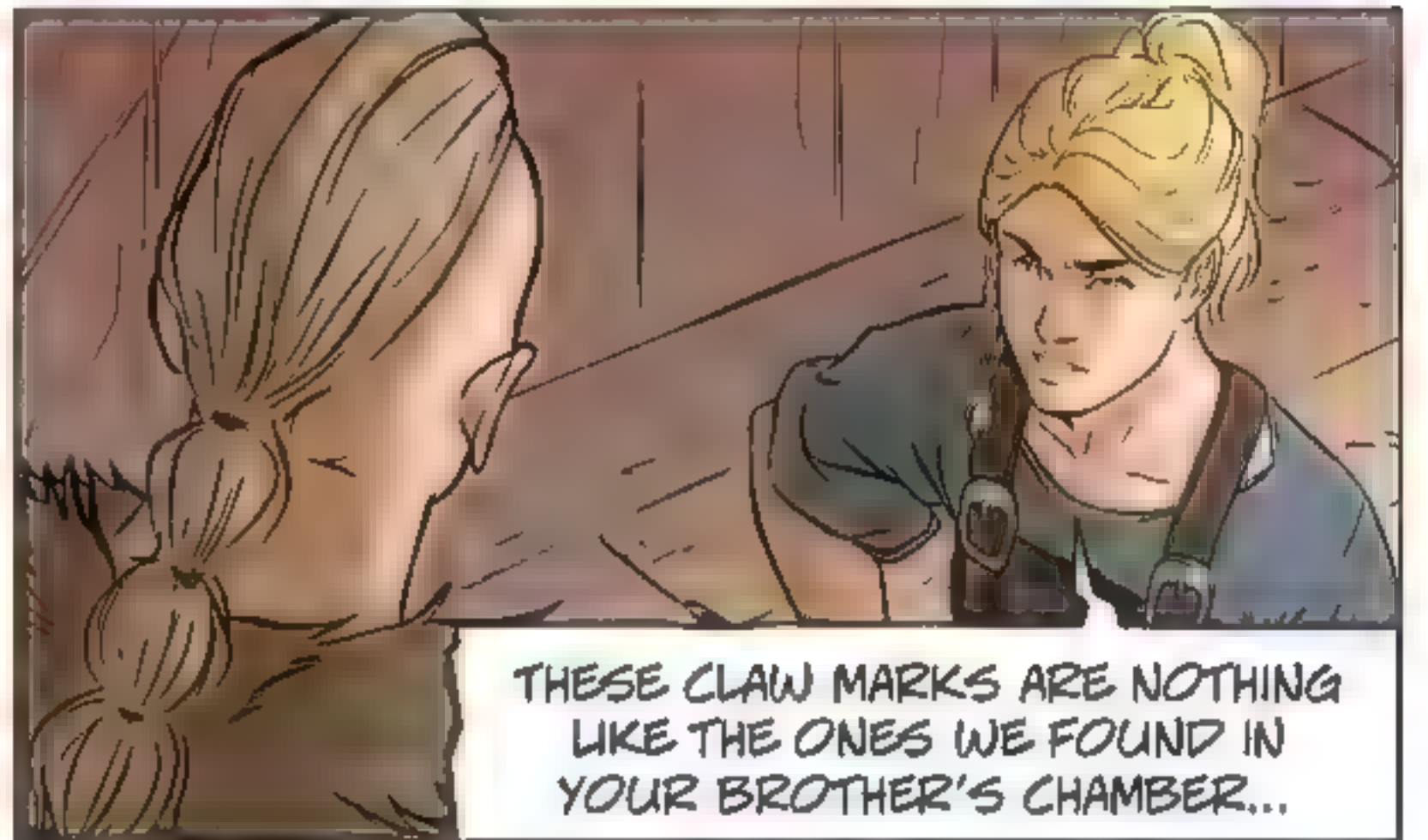
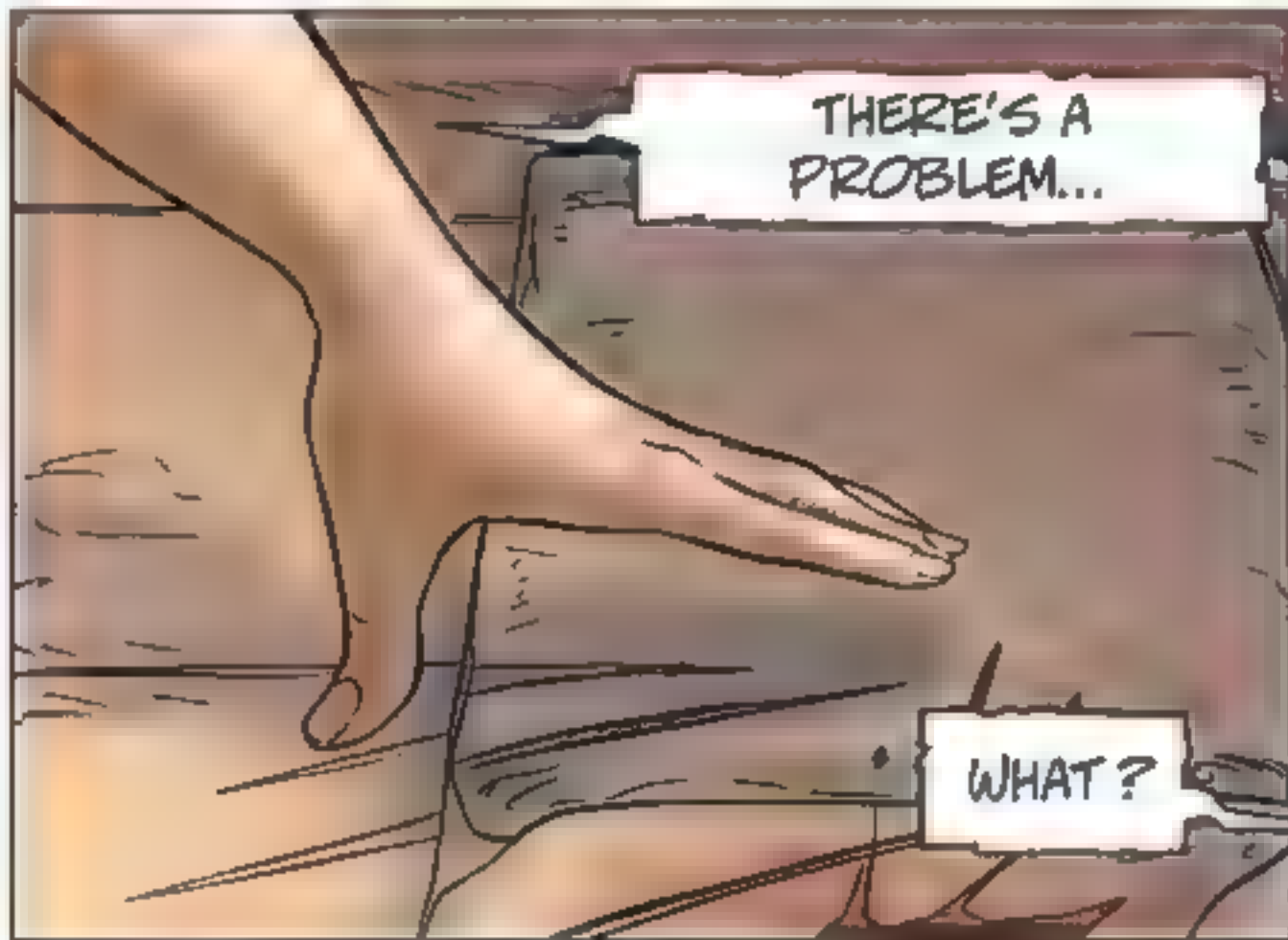
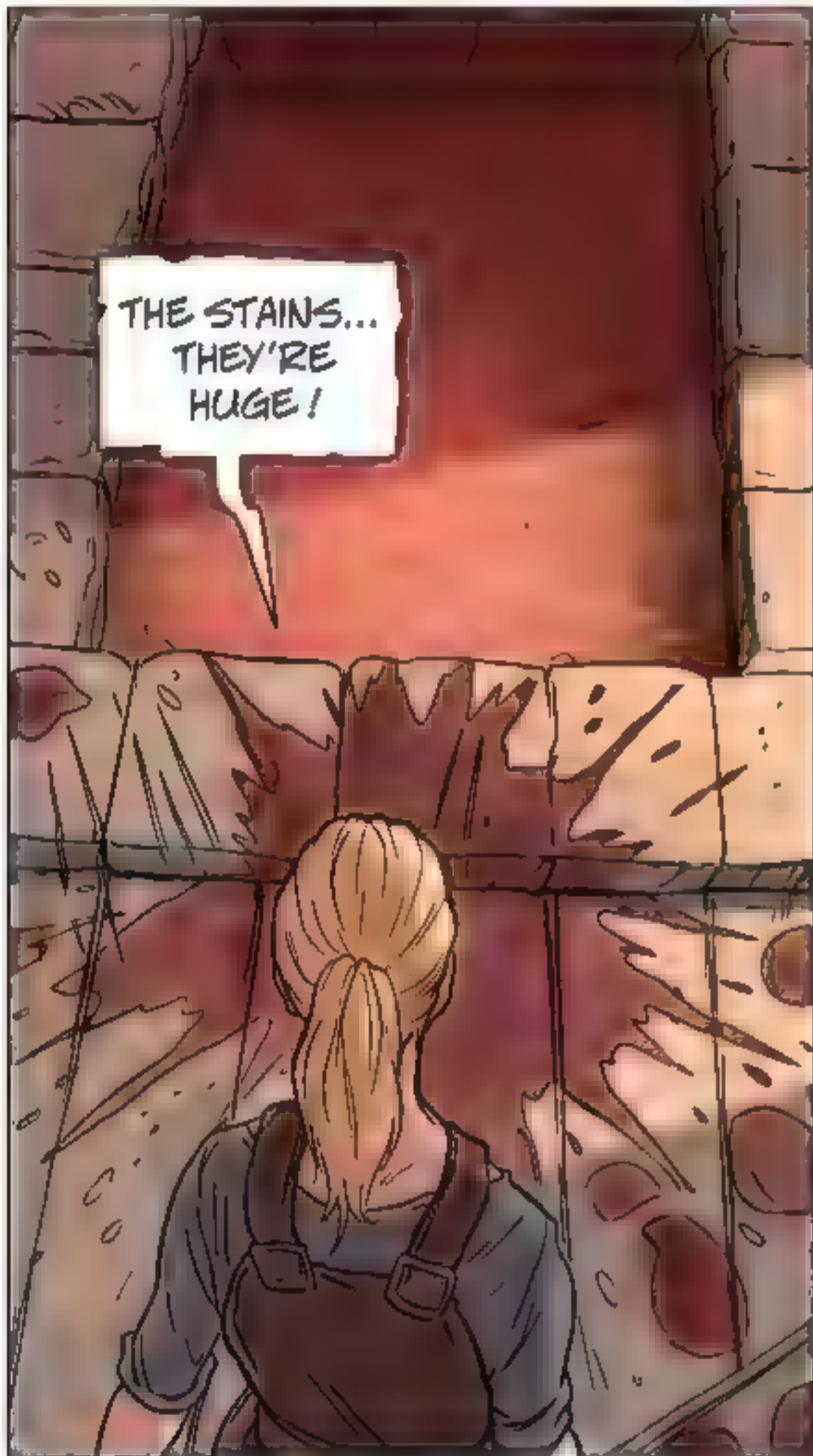
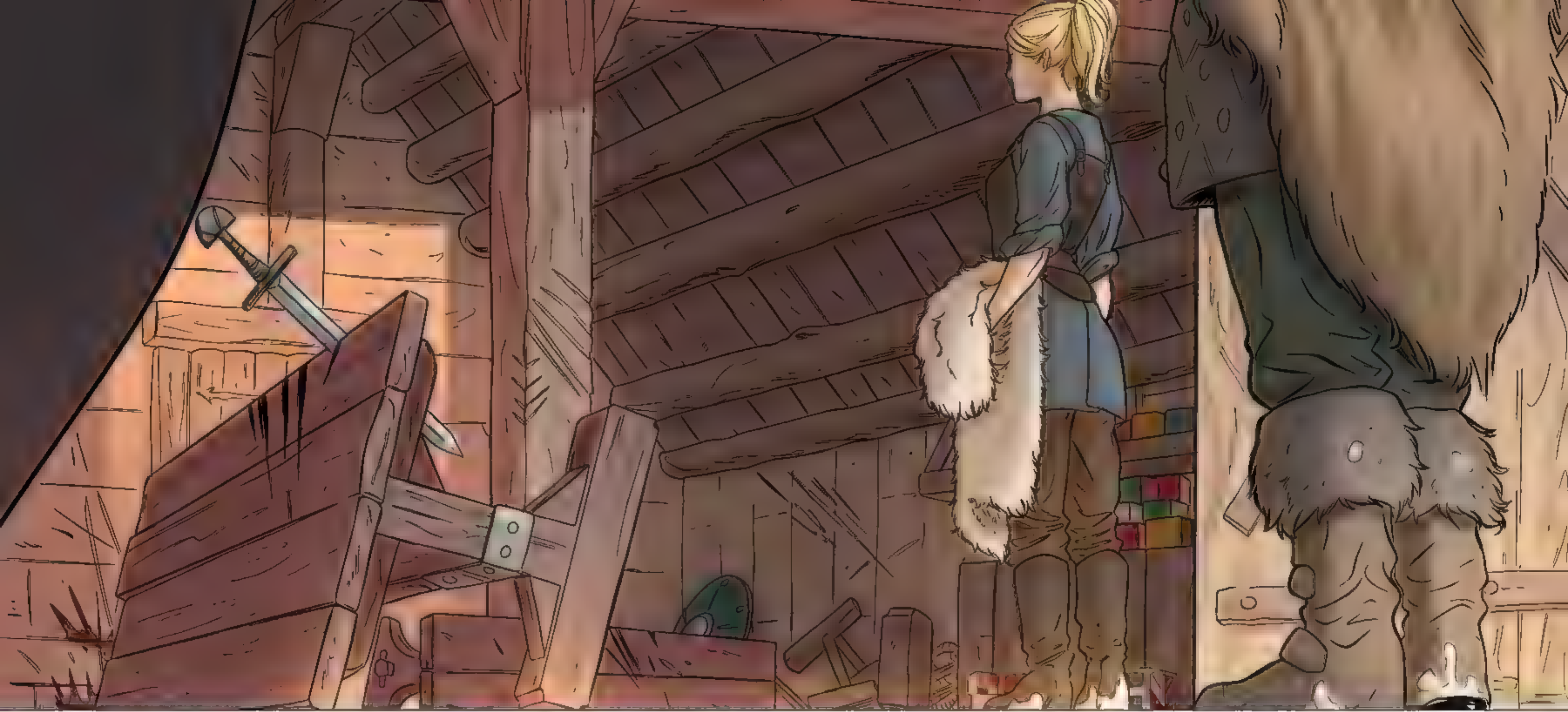
YOUR DAUGHTER IS  
LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.

SO, WHY DOES  
YOUR FATHER HATE  
YOU SO MUCH?

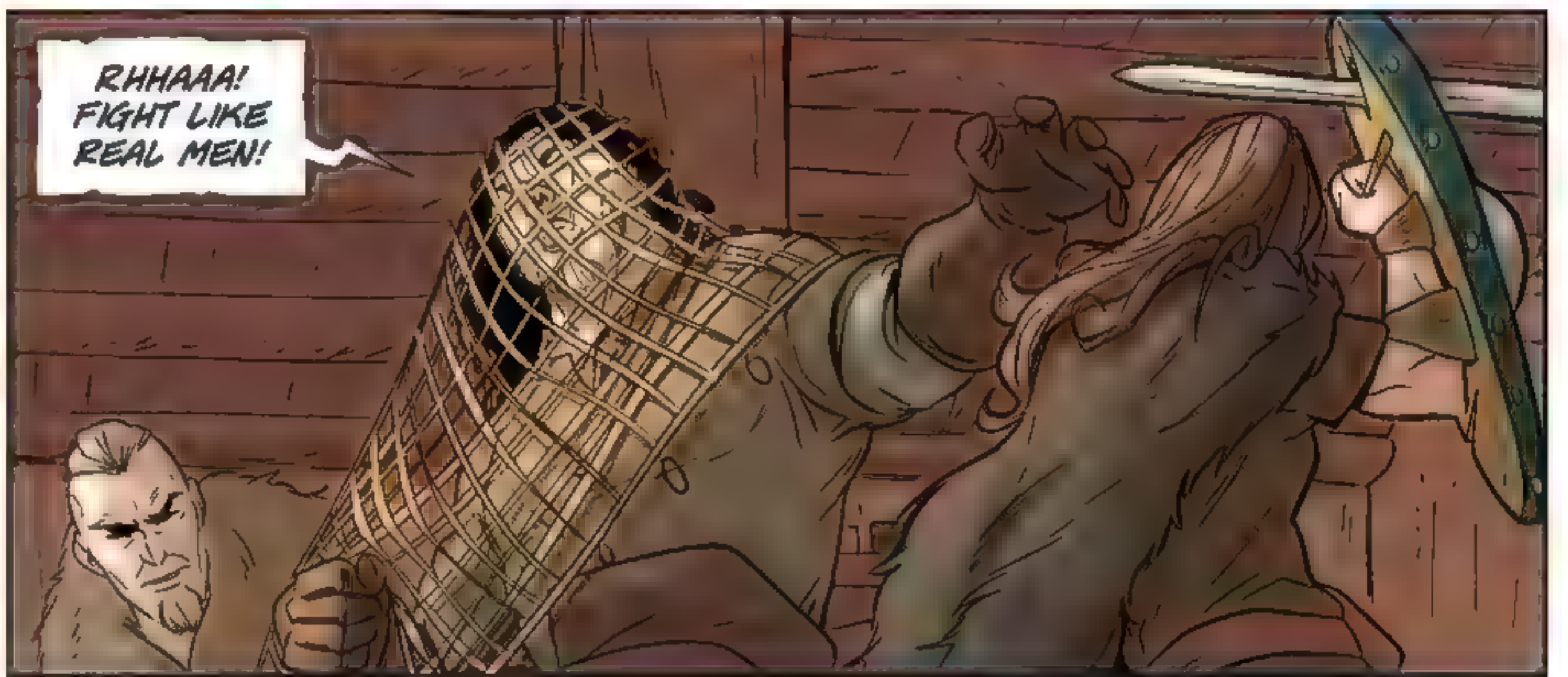
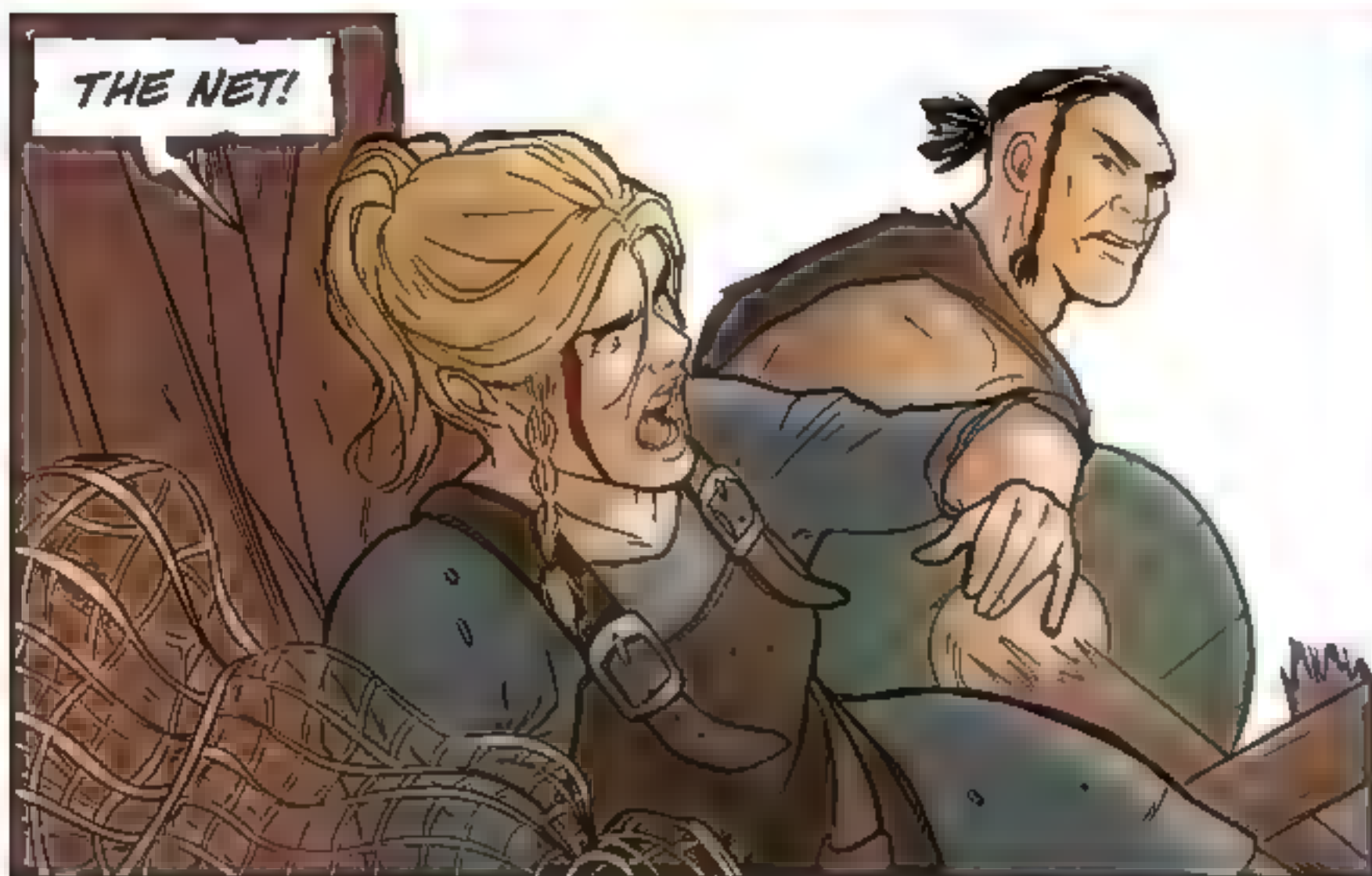








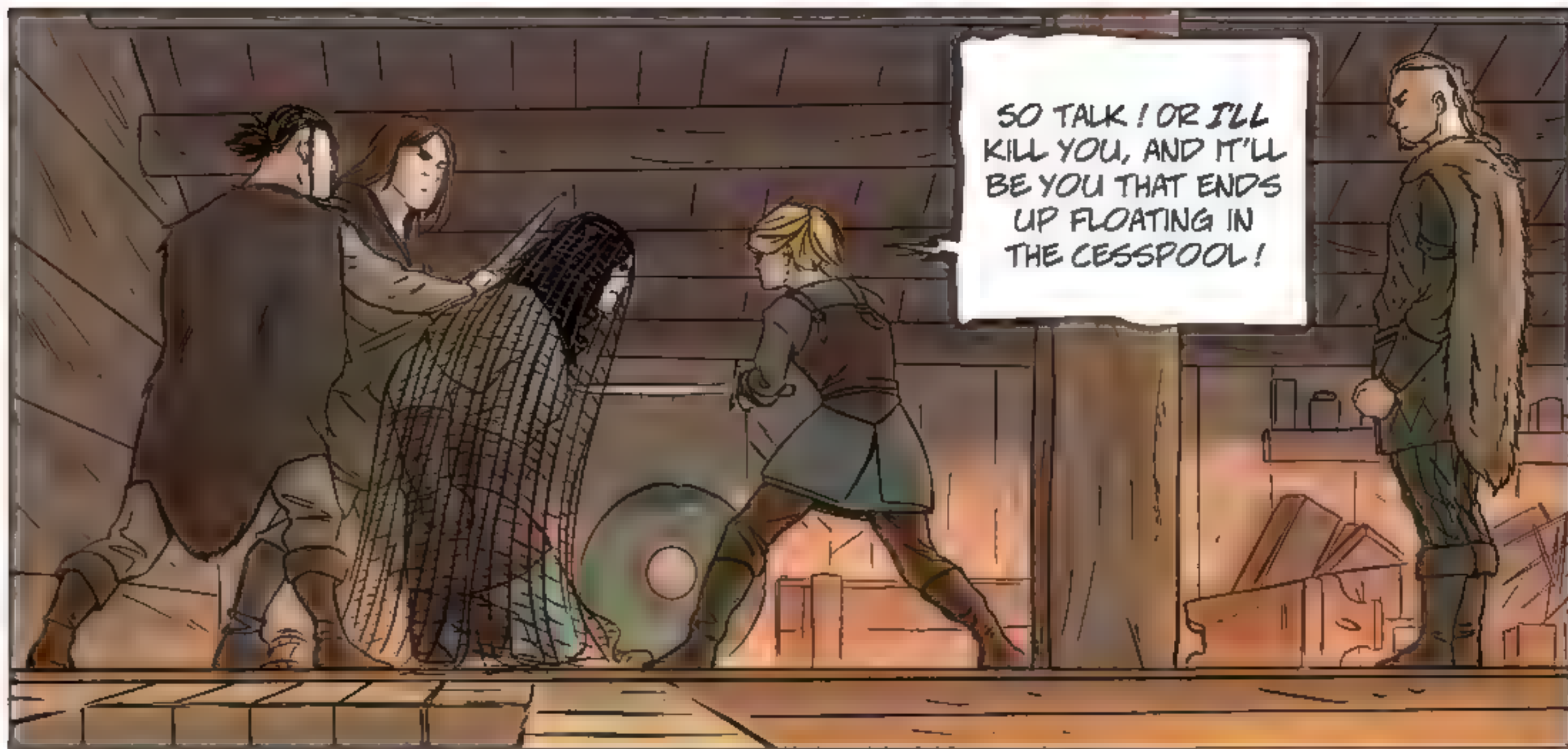




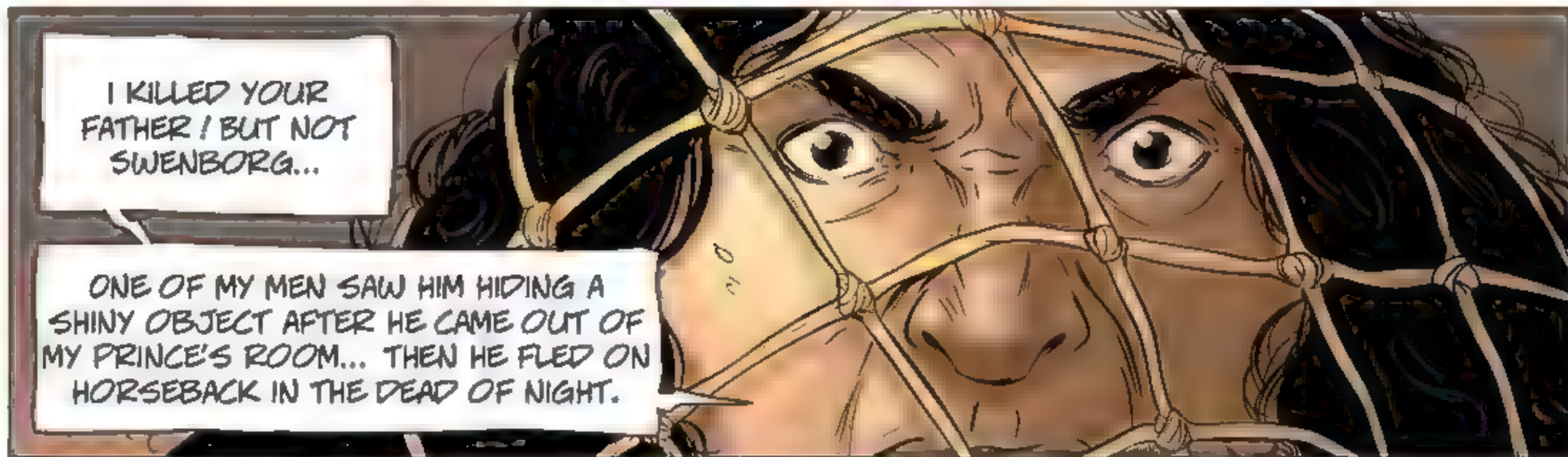




I HAVE DEVOTED  
MY LIFE TO THE  
BATTLEFIELD.  
I DESERVE AN  
HONORABLE DEATH!

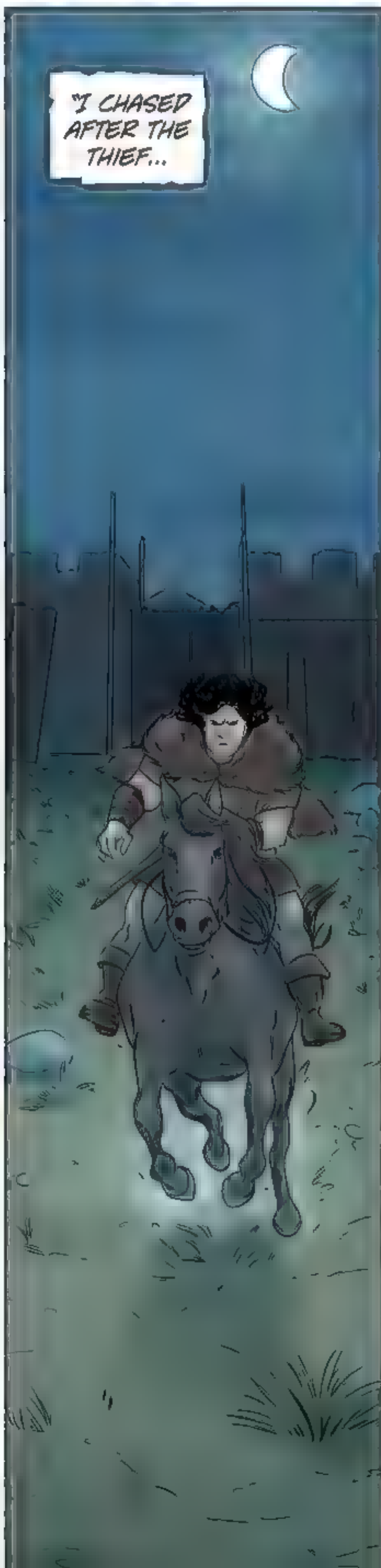


SO TALK! OR I'LL  
KILL YOU, AND IT'LL  
BE YOU THAT ENDS  
UP FLOATING IN  
THE CESSPOOL!



I KILLED YOUR  
FATHER! BUT NOT  
SWENBORG...

ONE OF MY MEN SAW HIM HIDING A  
SHINY OBJECT AFTER HE CAME OUT OF  
MY PRINCE'S ROOM... THEN HE FLED ON  
HORSEBACK IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT.



I CHASED  
AFTER THE  
THIEF...

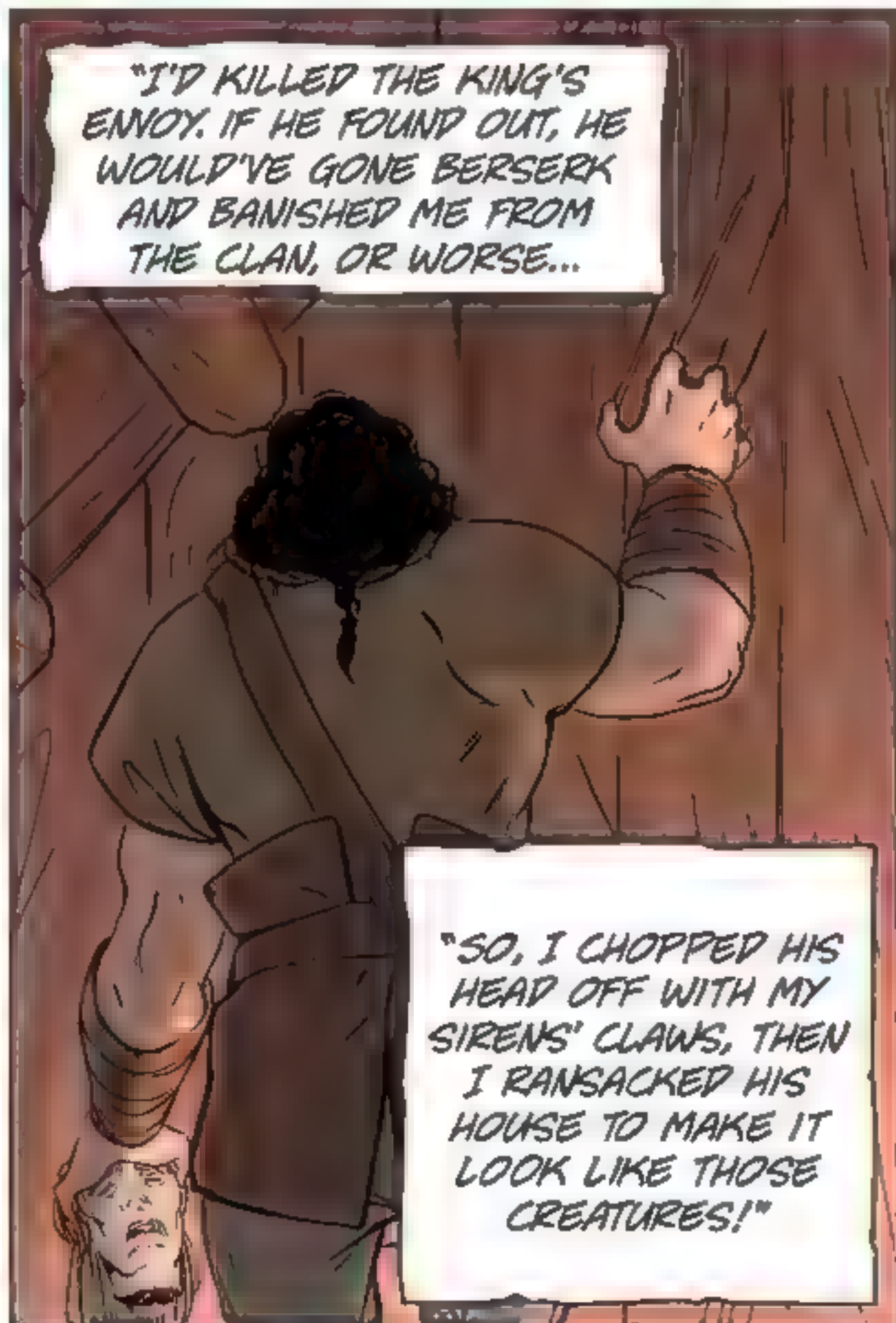


"...AND  
FOLLOWED  
HIM HERE.

"I DEMANDED THAT  
HE SHOW ME WHAT  
HE'D STOLEN FROM  
THE ROOM, BUT  
HE REFUSED.



"I TRIED TO MAKE HIM TALK... I  
DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM, BUT  
IT WAS HIS FAULT. HE SHOULDN'T  
HAVE BEEN SO STUBBORN!



"I'D KILLED THE KING'S  
ENVOY. IF HE FOUND OUT, HE  
WOULD'VE GONE BERSERK  
AND BANISHED ME FROM  
THE CLAN, OR WORSE...

"SO, I CHOPPED HIS  
HEAD OFF WITH MY  
SIRENS' CLAWS, THEN  
I RANSACKED HIS  
HOUSE TO MAKE IT  
LOOK LIKE THOSE  
CREATURES!"



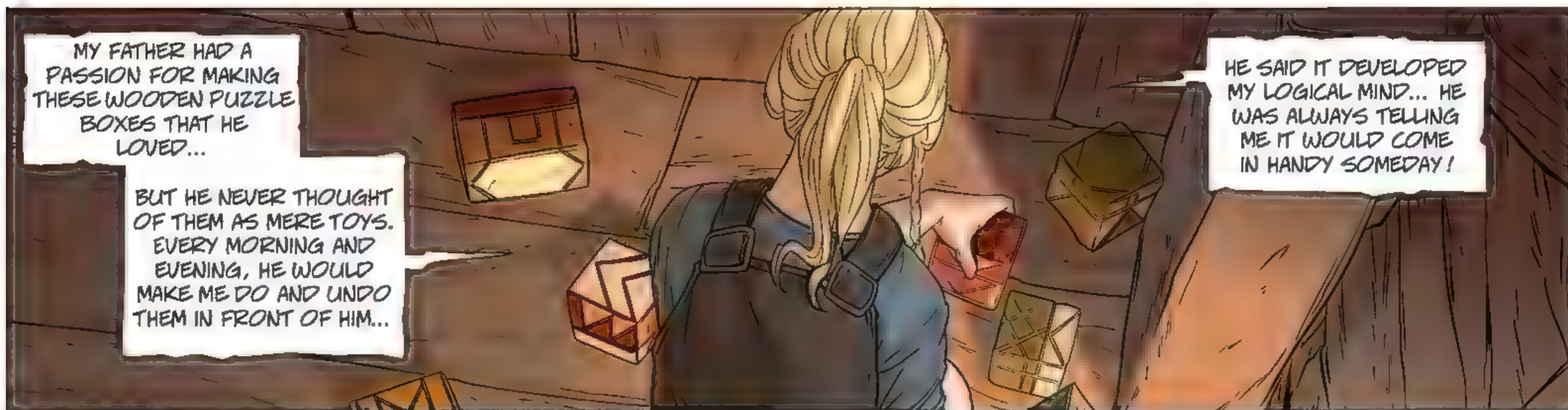
WHAT ABOUT THE  
SHINY OBJECT?

I LOOKED  
EVERYWHERE, BUT I  
NEVER FOUND IT.



YOU JUST  
DIDN'T KNOW  
WHERE TO  
LOOK...



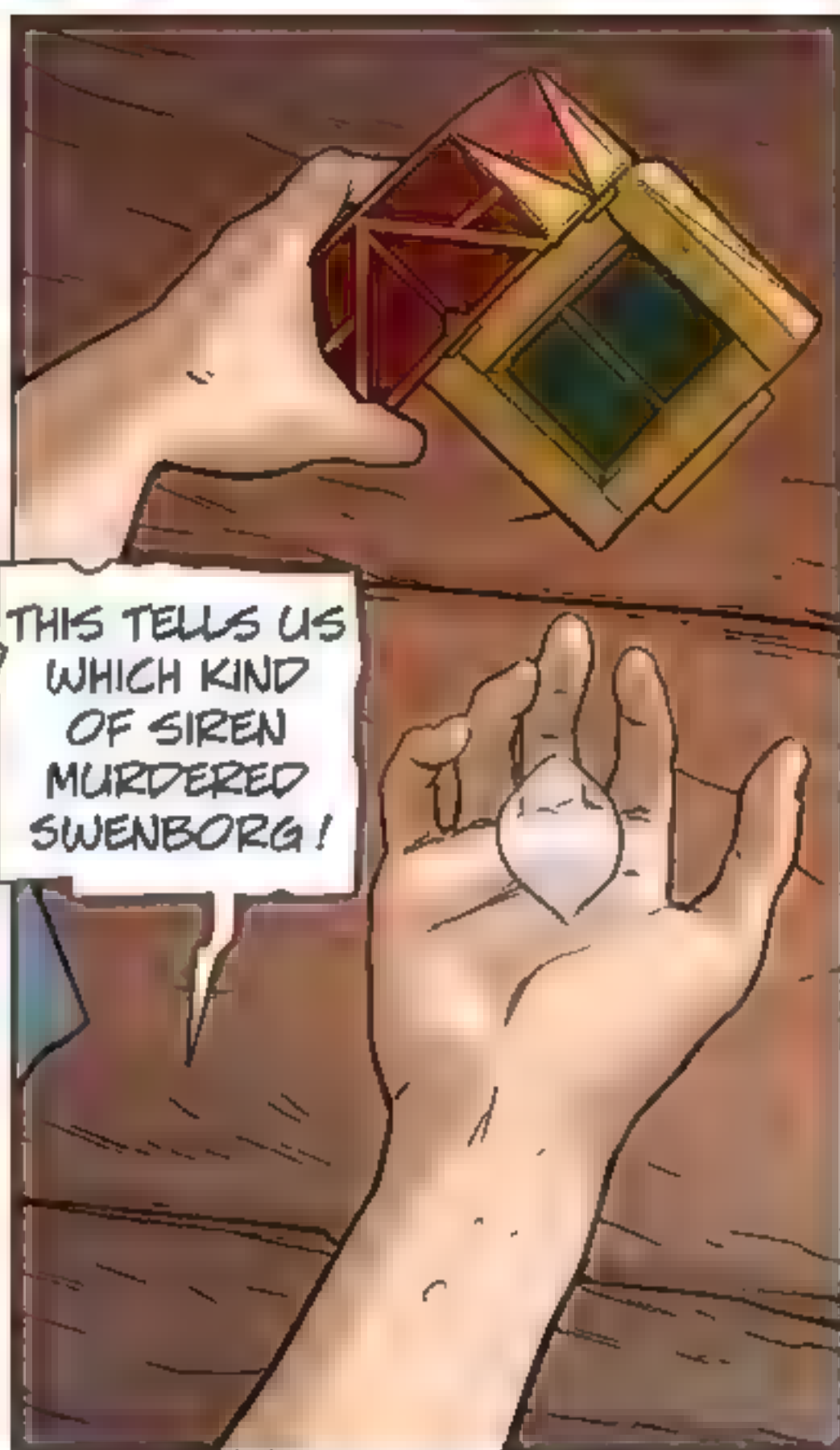


MY FATHER HAD A PASSION FOR MAKING THESE WOODEN PUZZLE BOXES THAT HE LOVED...

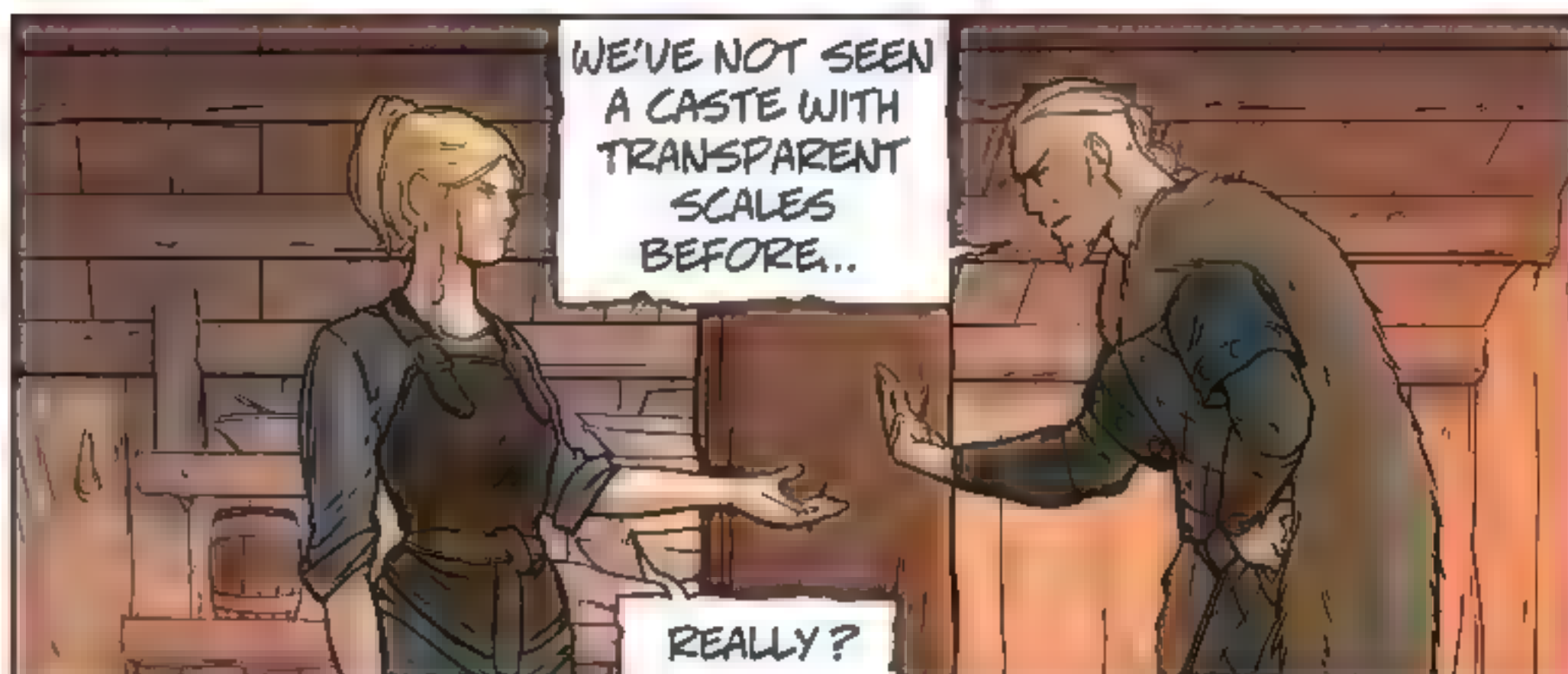
BUT HE NEVER THOUGHT OF THEM AS MERE TOYS. EVERY MORNING AND EVENING, HE WOULD MAKE ME DO AND UNDO THEM IN FRONT OF HIM...

HE SAID IT DEVELOPED MY LOGICAL MIND... HE WAS ALWAYS TELLING ME IT WOULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY!

THIS WAS HIS FAVORITE BOX, BECAUSE HE KNEW IT TOOK ME MUCH LONGER TO OPEN THAN ALL THE OTHERS... BUT, WITH PRACTICE, I EVENTUALLY FOUND IT AS EASY AS THE REST.

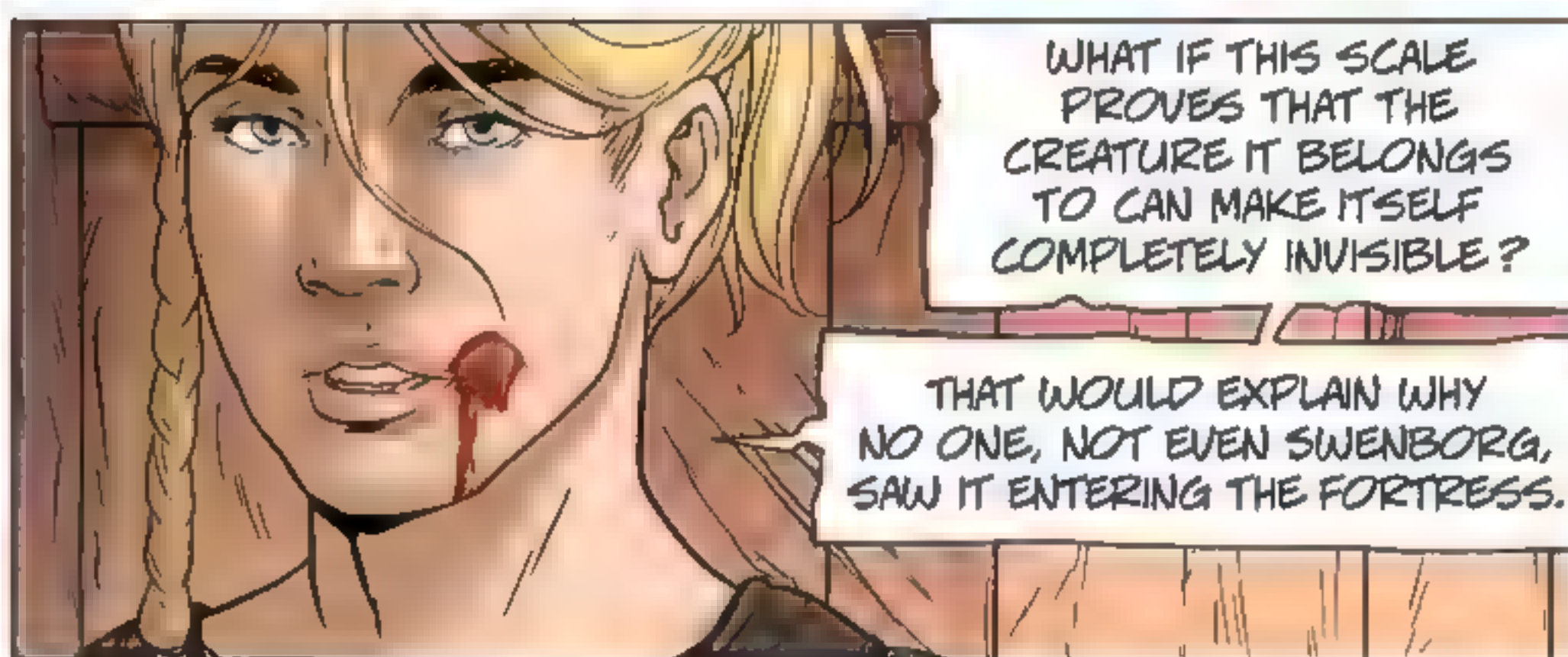


THIS TELLS US WHICH KIND OF SIREN MURDERED SWENBORG!



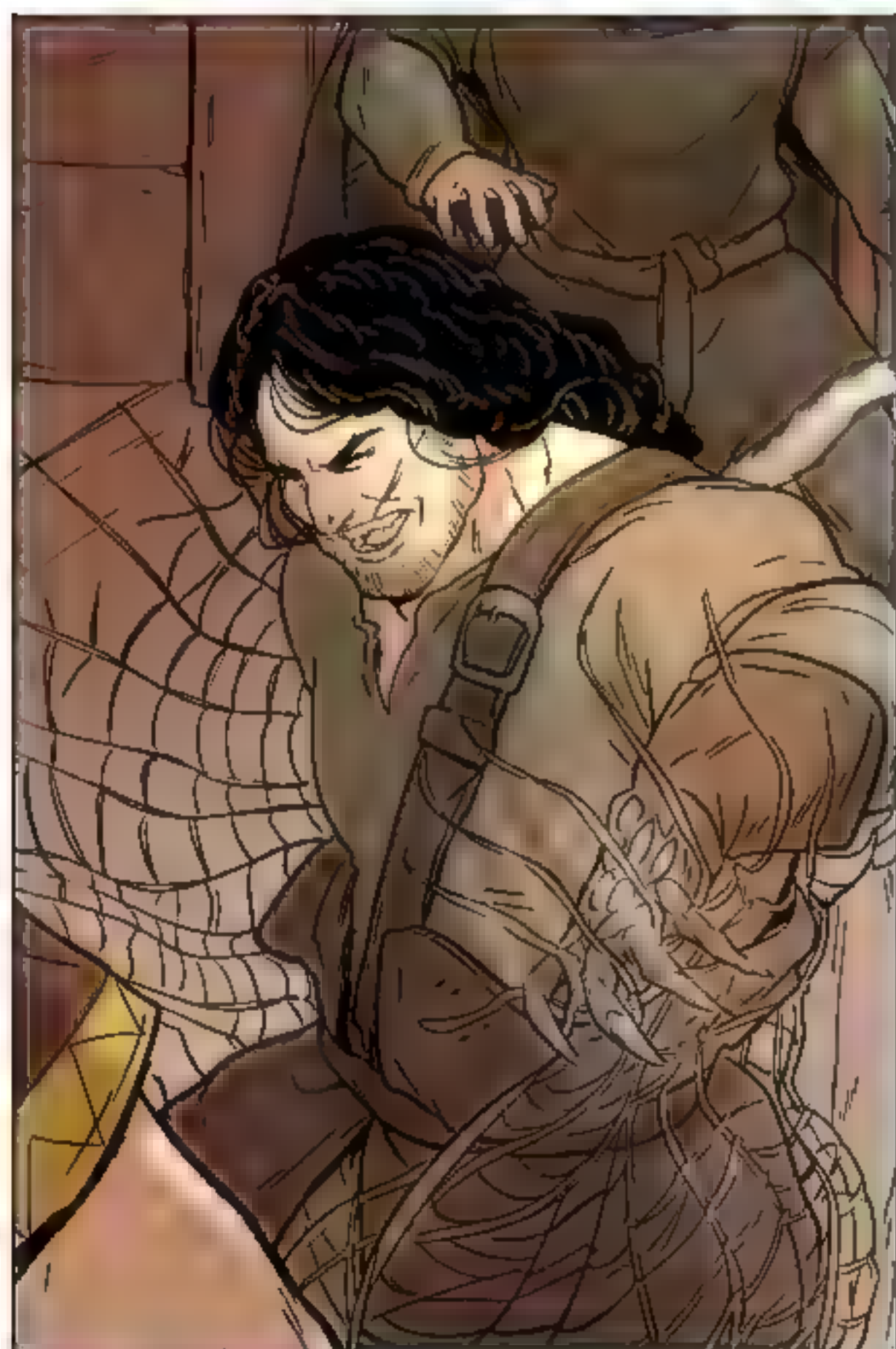
WE'VE NOT SEEN A CASTE WITH TRANSPARENT SCALES BEFORE...

REALLY?

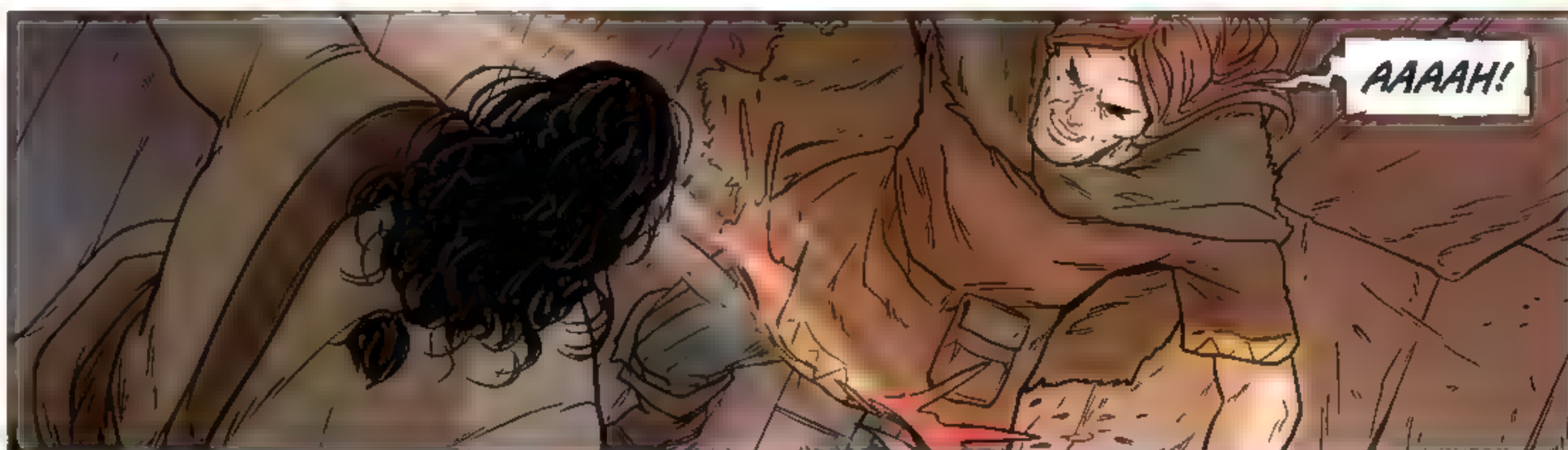


WHAT IF THIS SCALE PROVES THAT THE CREATURE IT BELONGS TO CAN MAKE ITSELF COMPLETELY INVISIBLE?

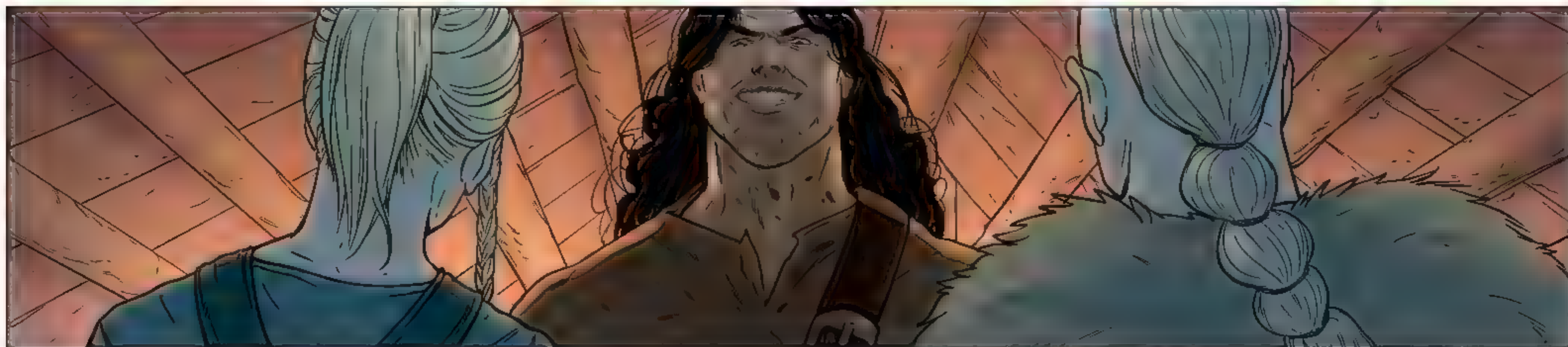
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY NO ONE, NOT EVEN SWENBORG, SAW IT ENTERING THE FORTRESS.



YARGH!



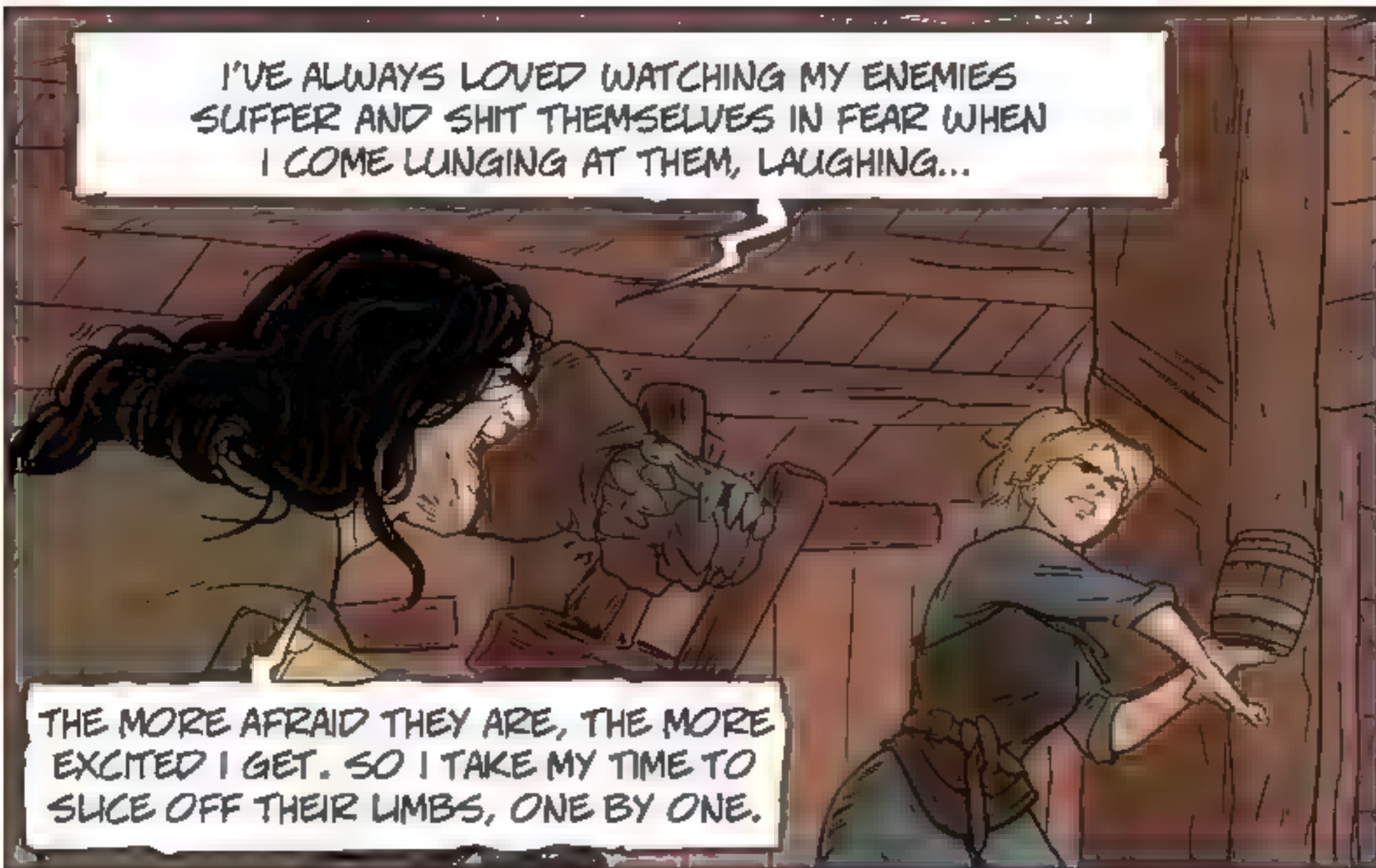
AAAAH!





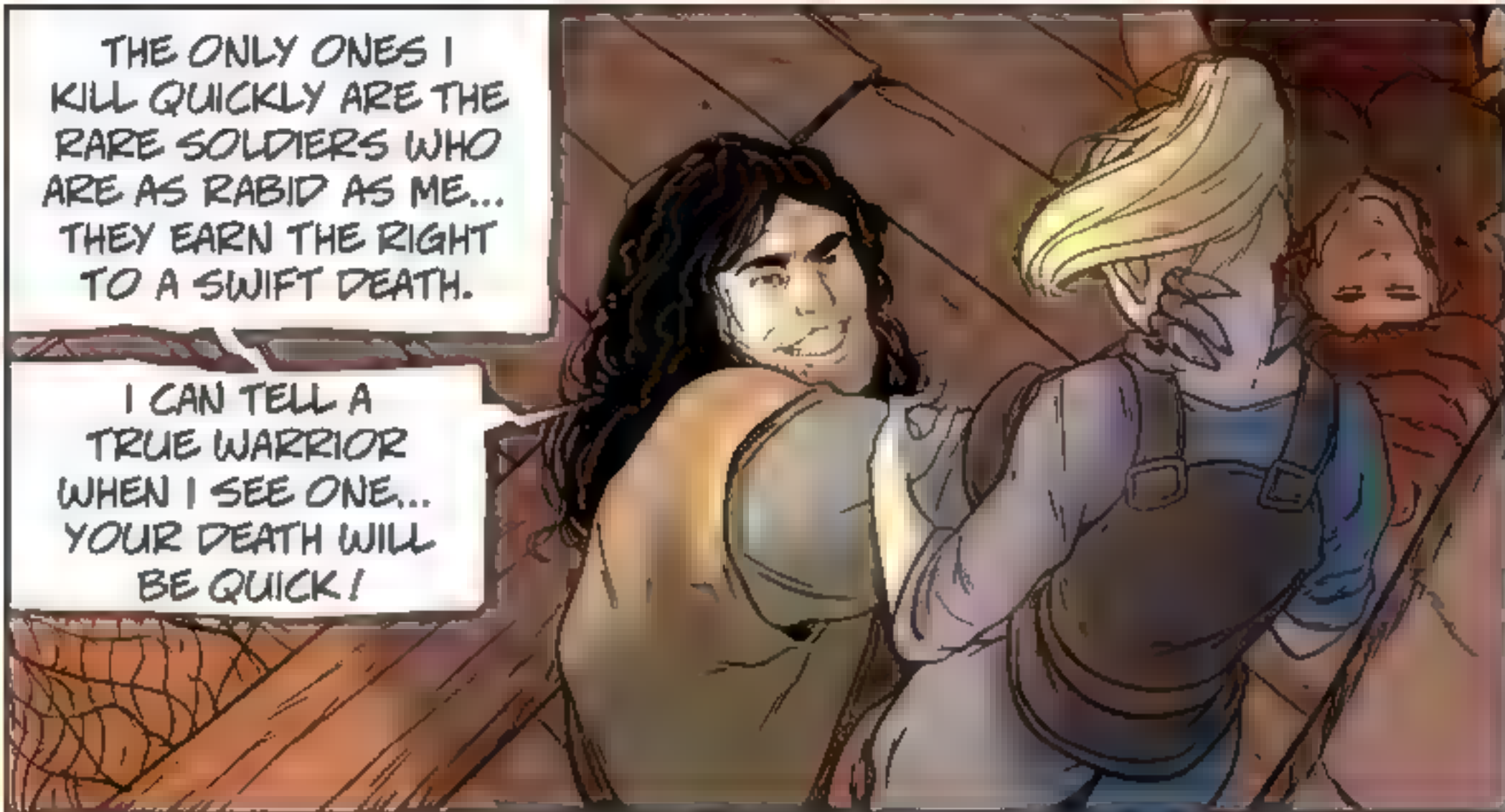


I'LL GET TO YOU LATER, COWARD... FIRST, I'M GOING TO FINISH OFF THE WOMAN!



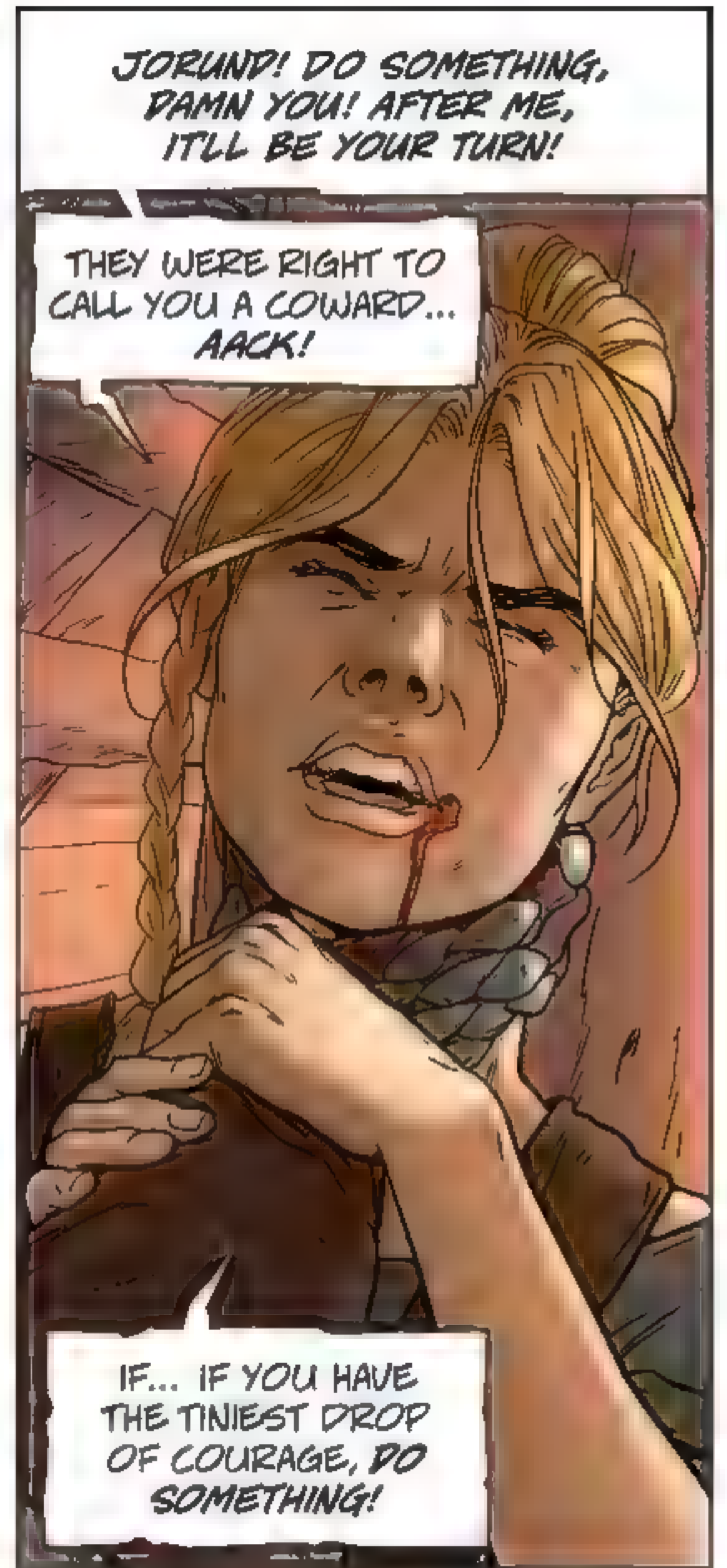
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED WATCHING MY ENEMIES SUFFER AND SHIT THEMSELVES IN FEAR WHEN I COME LUNGING AT THEM, LAUGHING...

THE MORE AFRAID THEY ARE, THE MORE EXCITED I GET. SO I TAKE MY TIME TO SLICE OFF THEIR LIMBS, ONE BY ONE.



THE ONLY ONES I KILL QUICKLY ARE THE RARE SOLDIERS WHO ARE AS RABID AS ME... THEY EARN THE RIGHT TO A SWIFT DEATH.

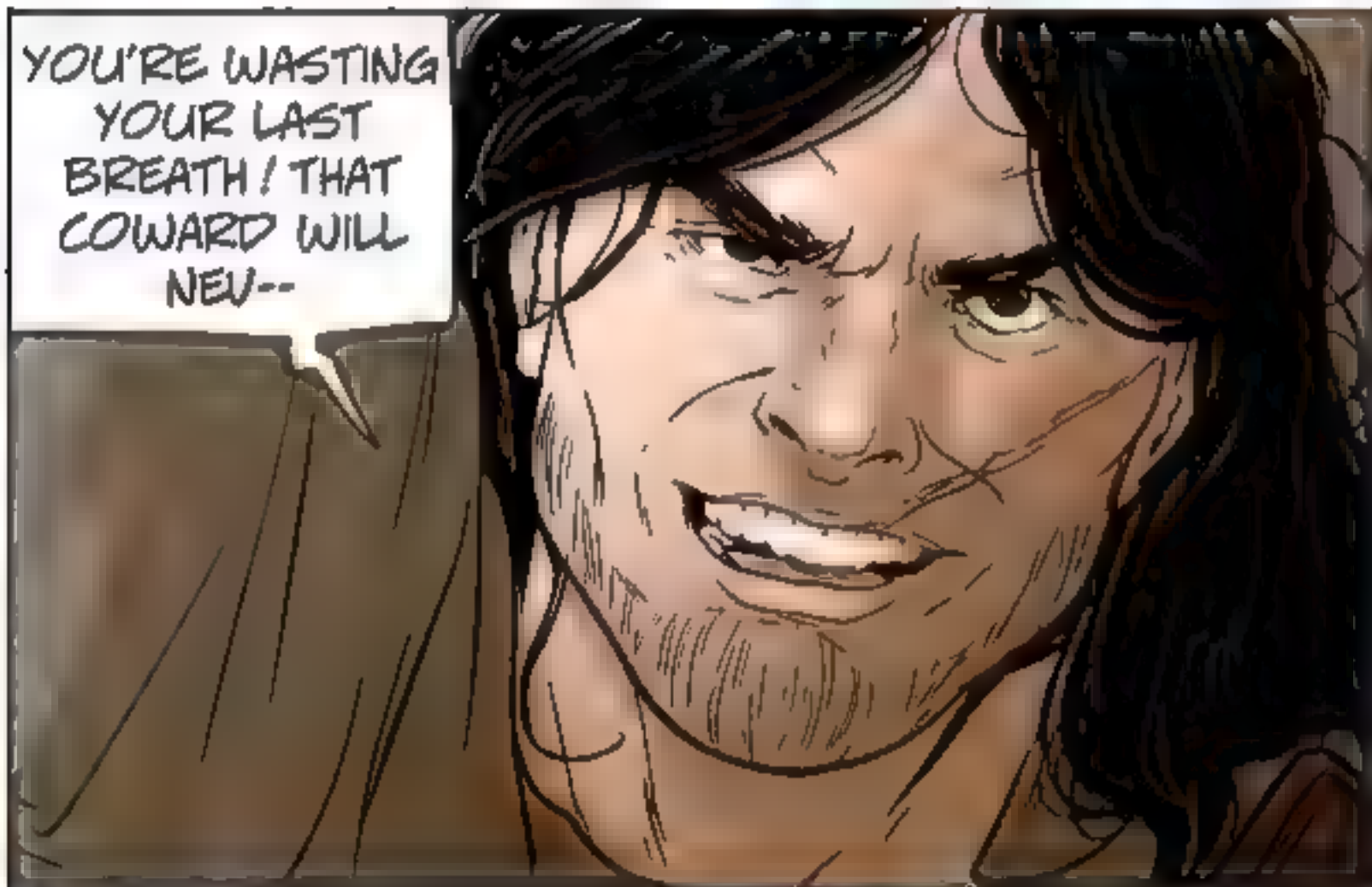
I CAN TELL A TRUE WARRIOR WHEN I SEE ONE... YOUR DEATH WILL BE QUICK!



JORUND! DO SOMETHING, DAMN YOU! AFTER ME, IT'LL BE YOUR TURN!

THEY WERE RIGHT TO CALL YOU A COWARD... AACK!

IF... IF YOU HAVE THE TINIEST DROP OF COURAGE, DO SOMETHING!



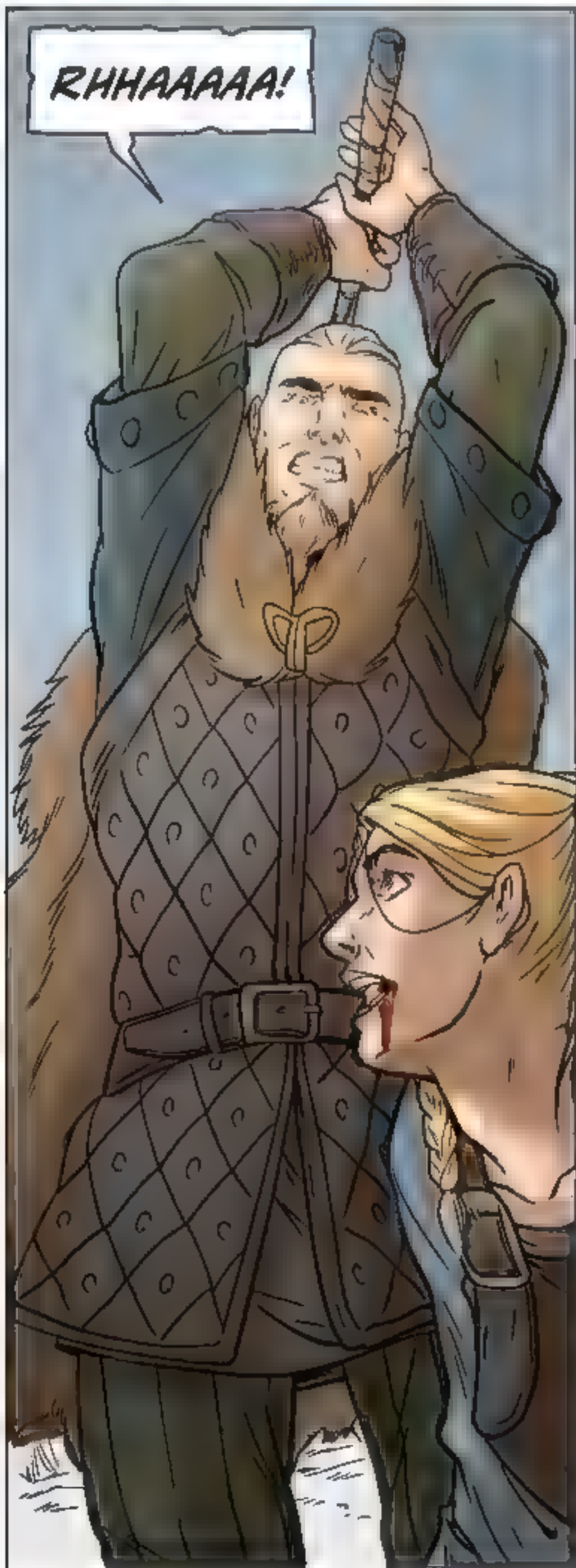
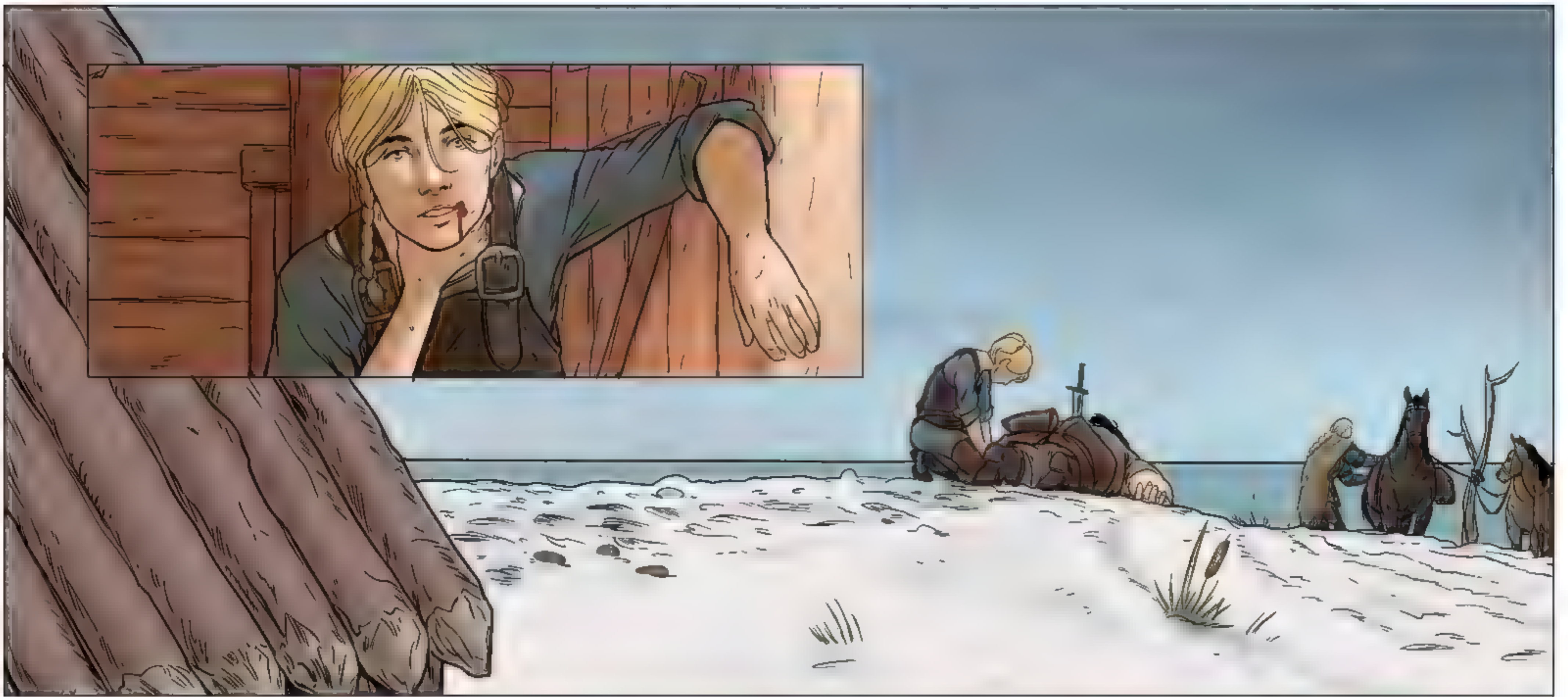
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR LAST BREATH! THAT COWARD WILL NEVER--



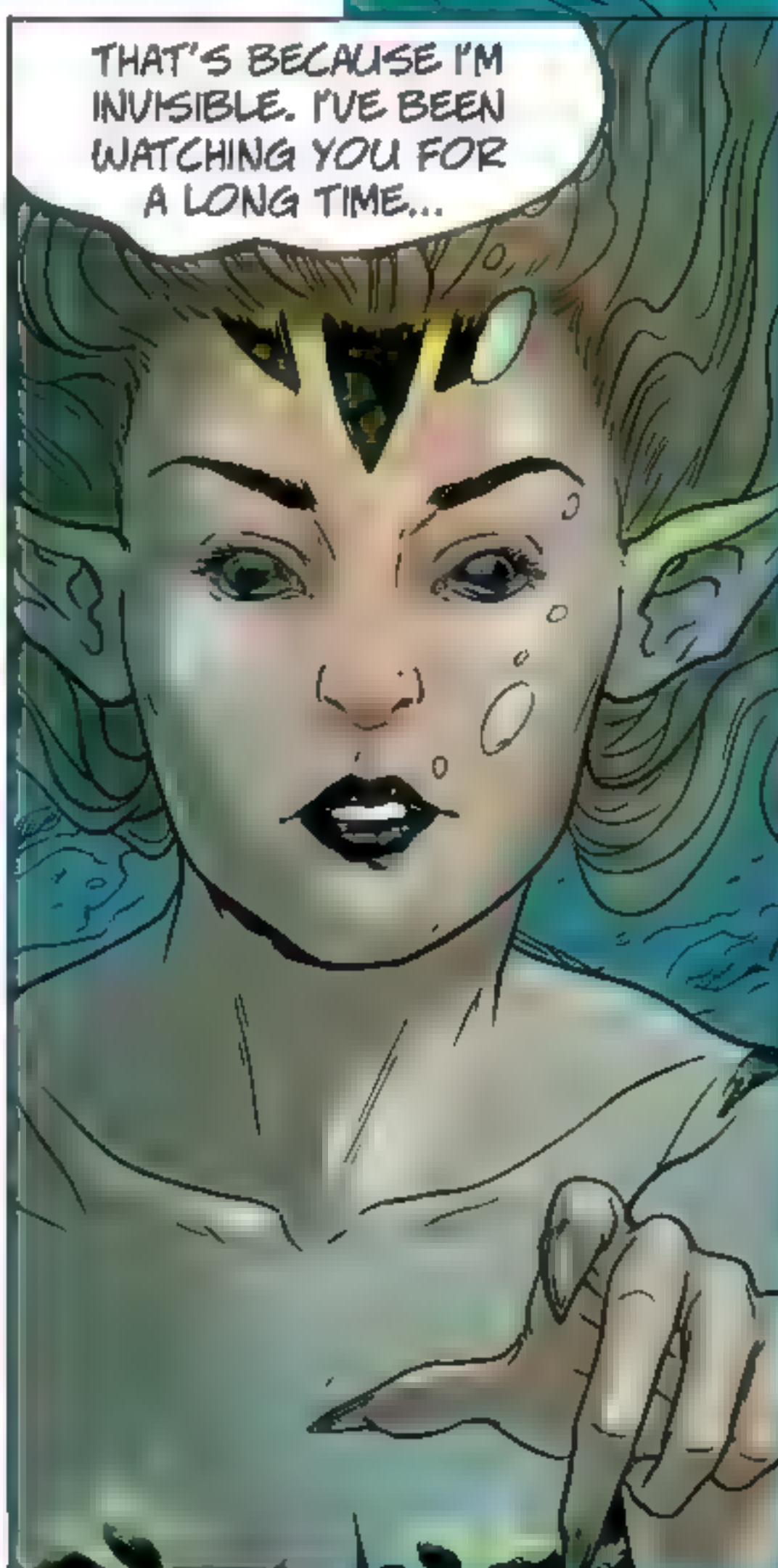
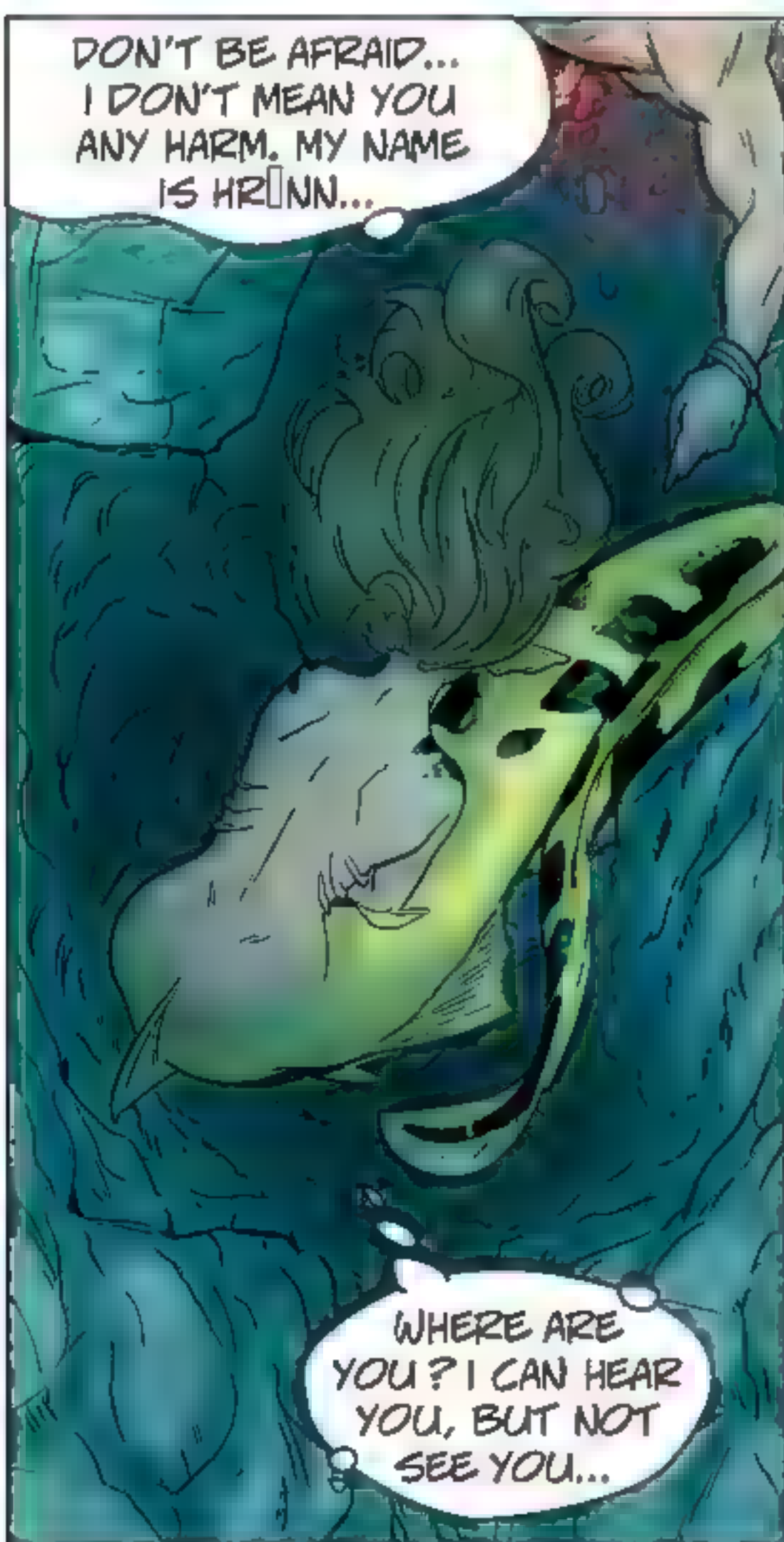
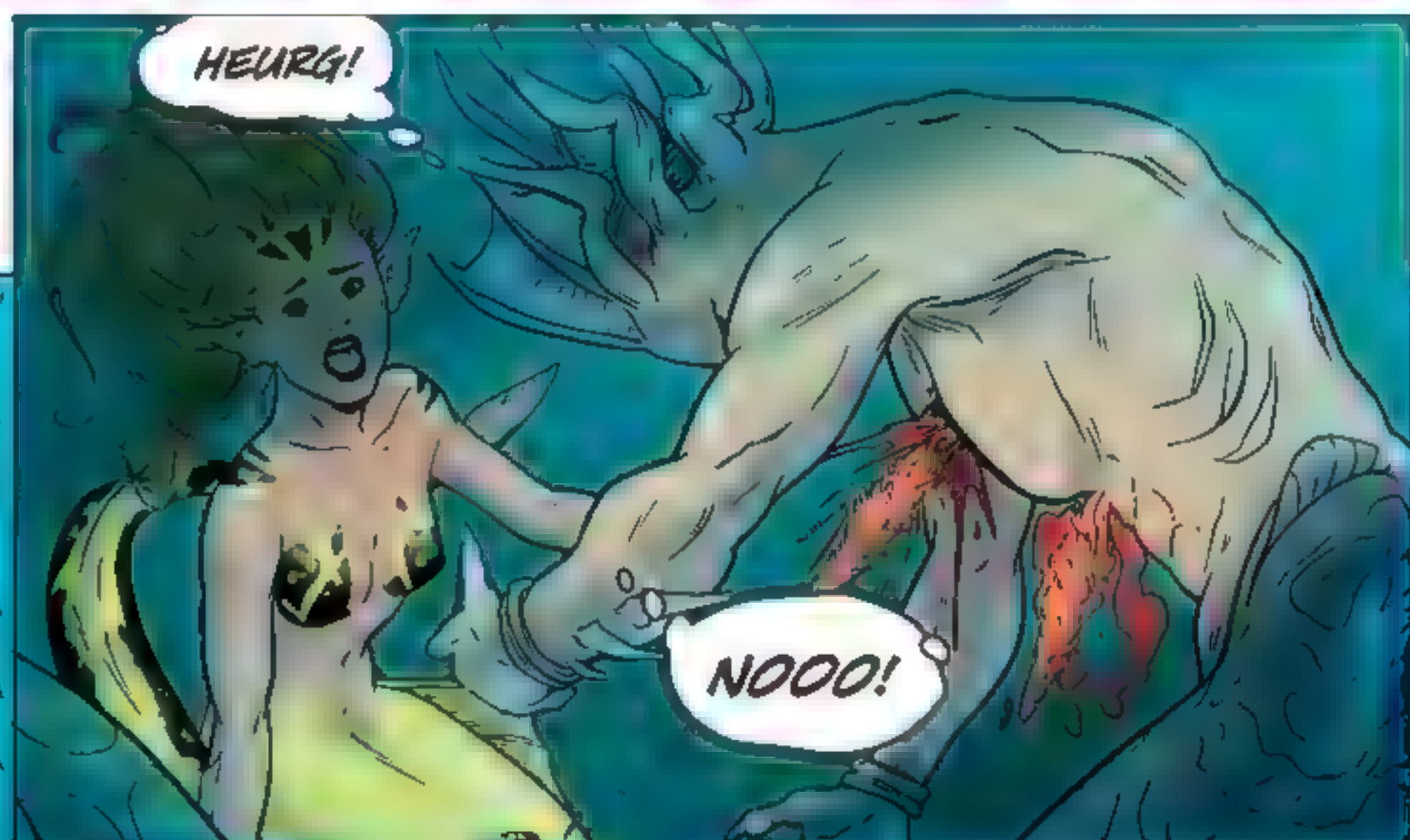
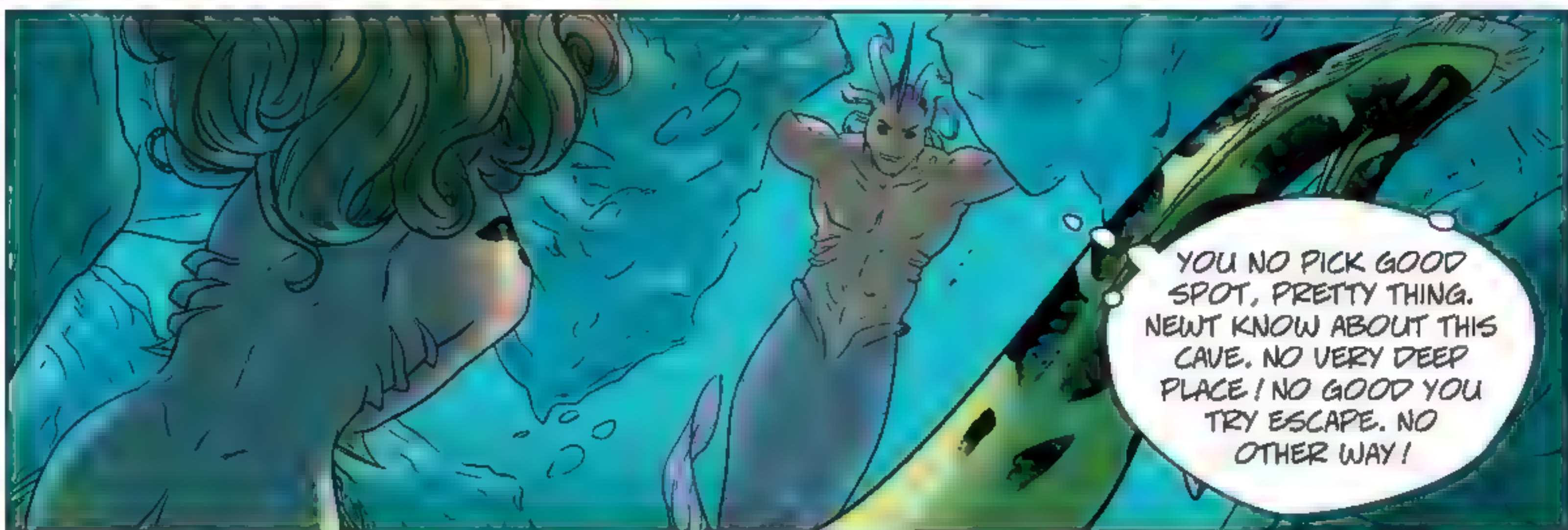
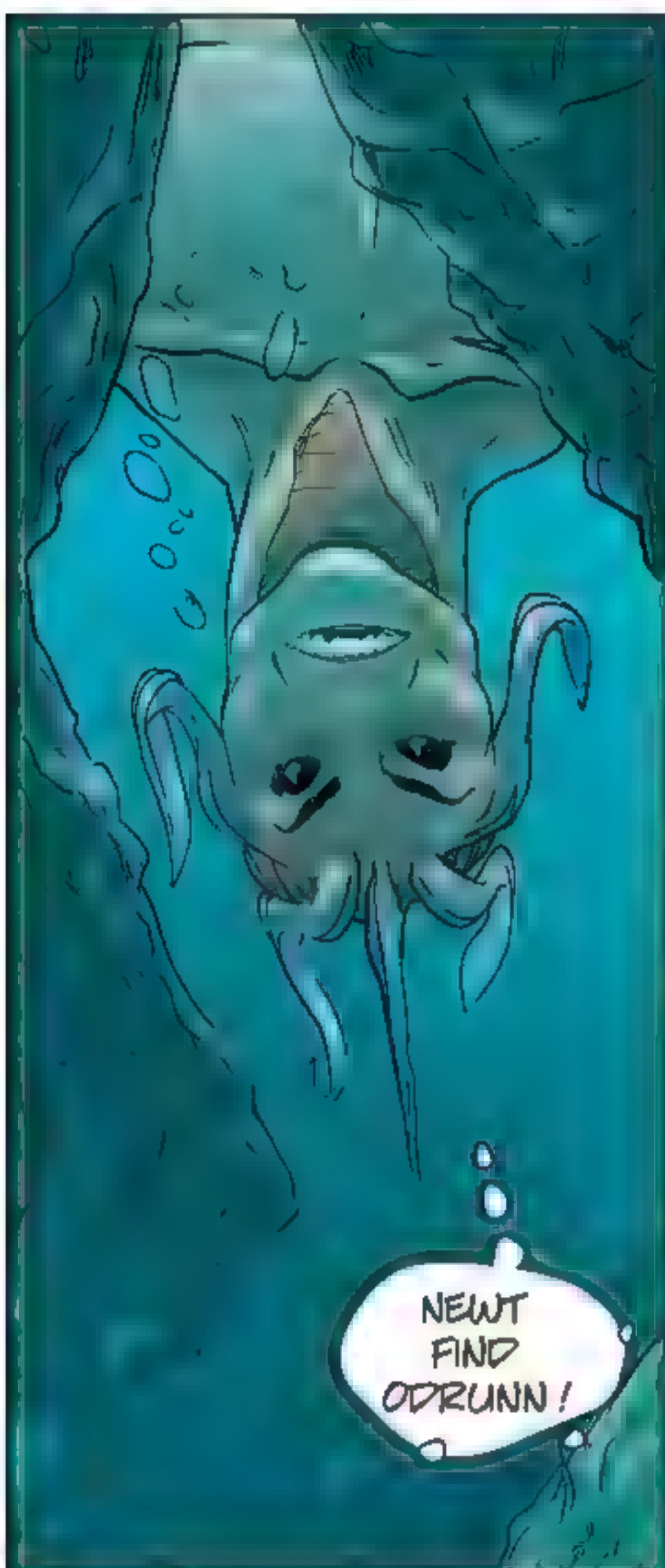
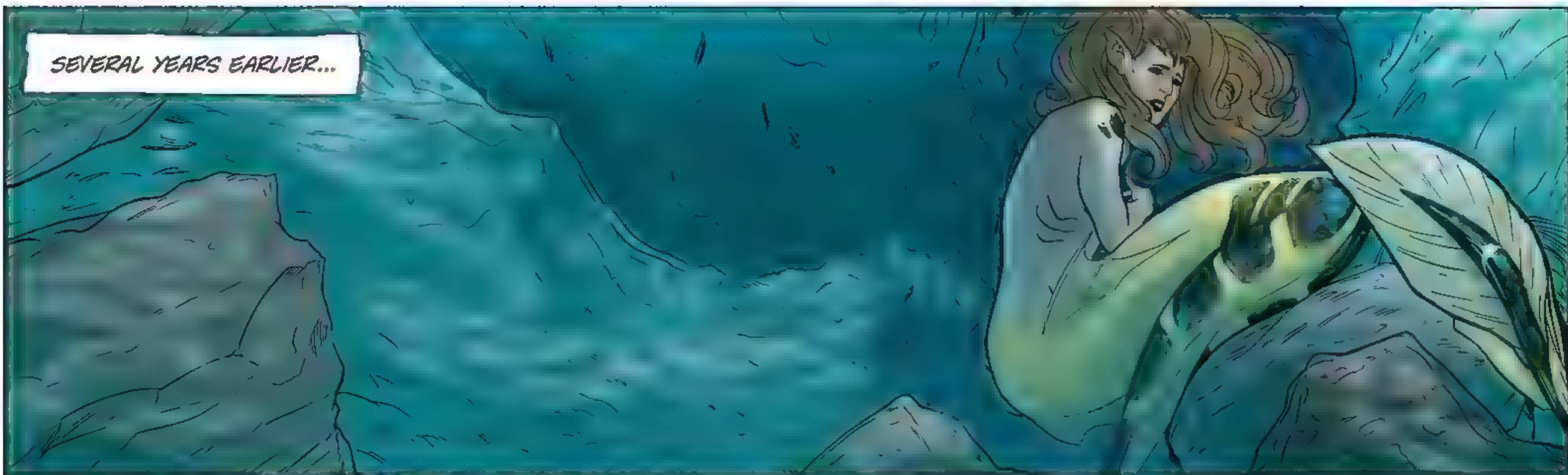
?!



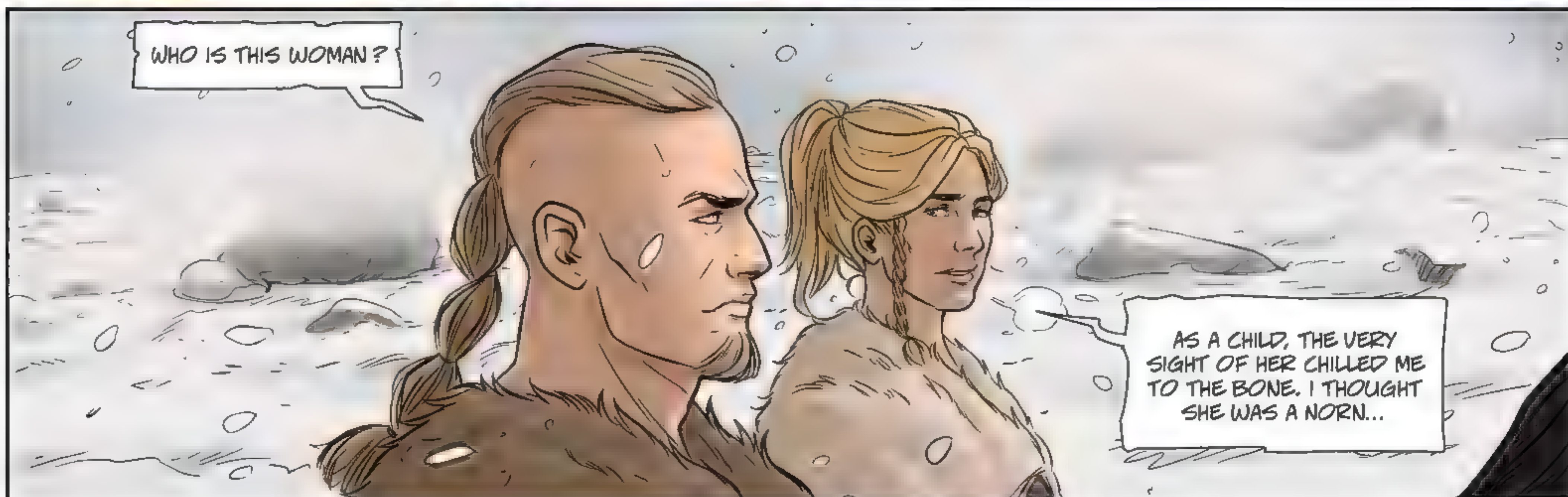
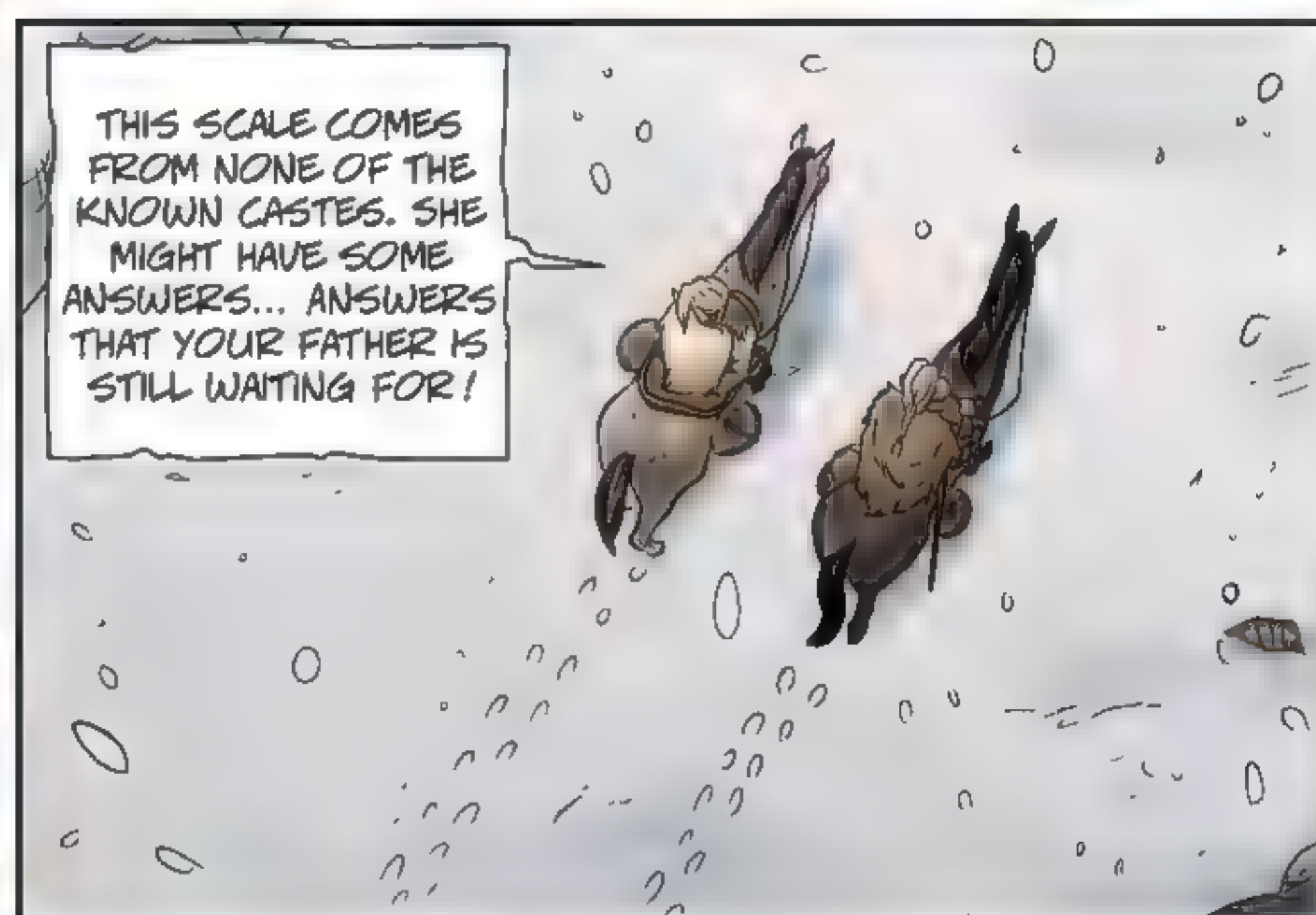
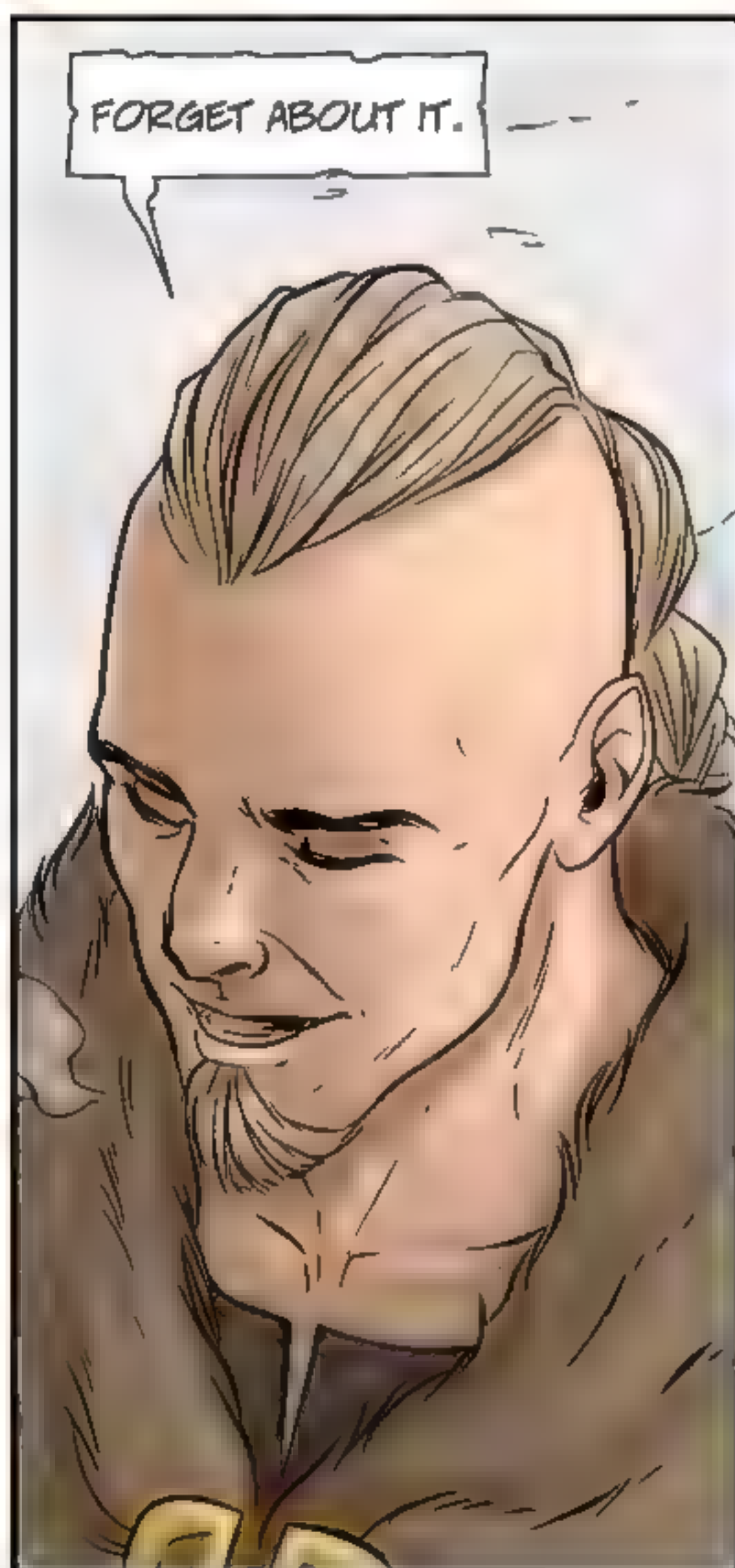
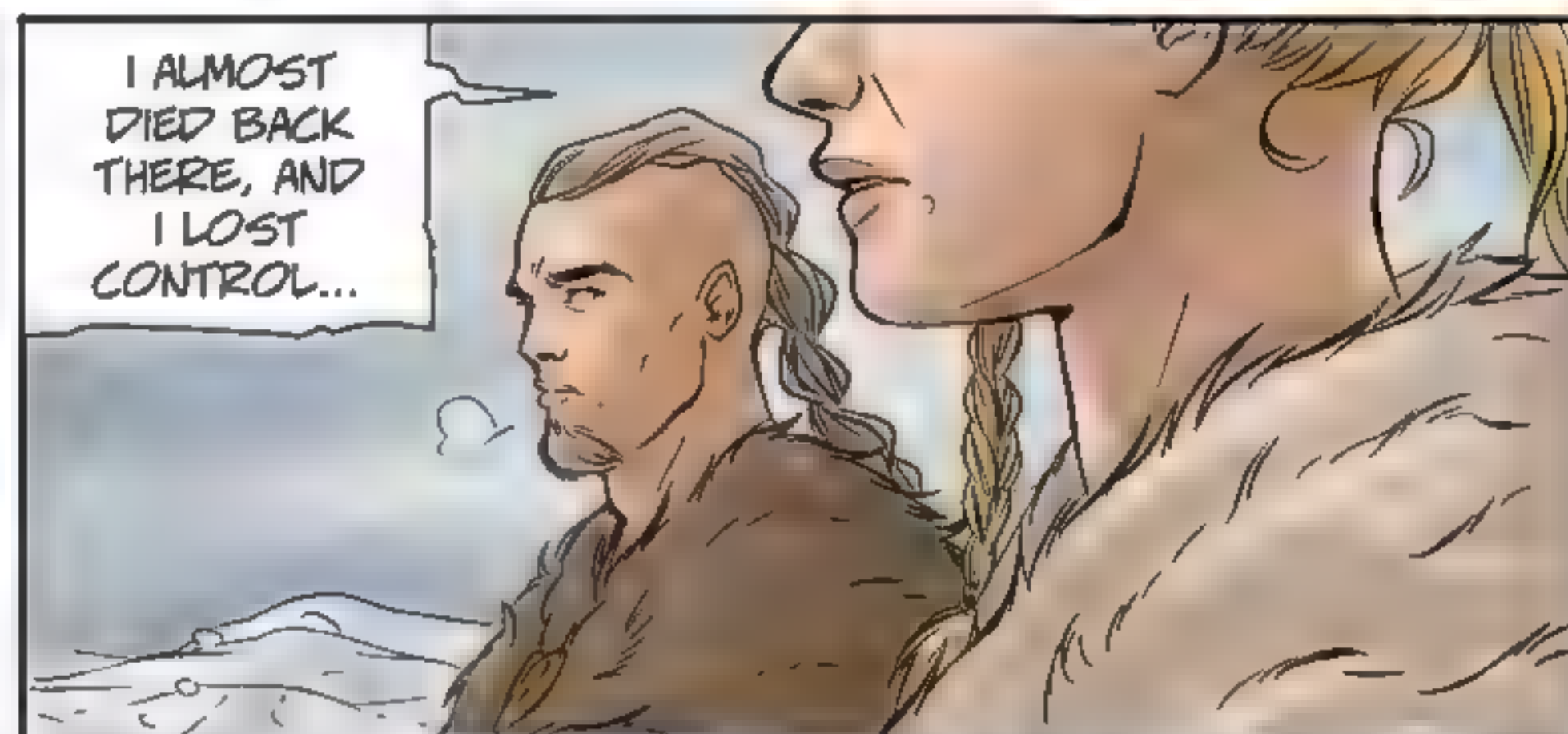
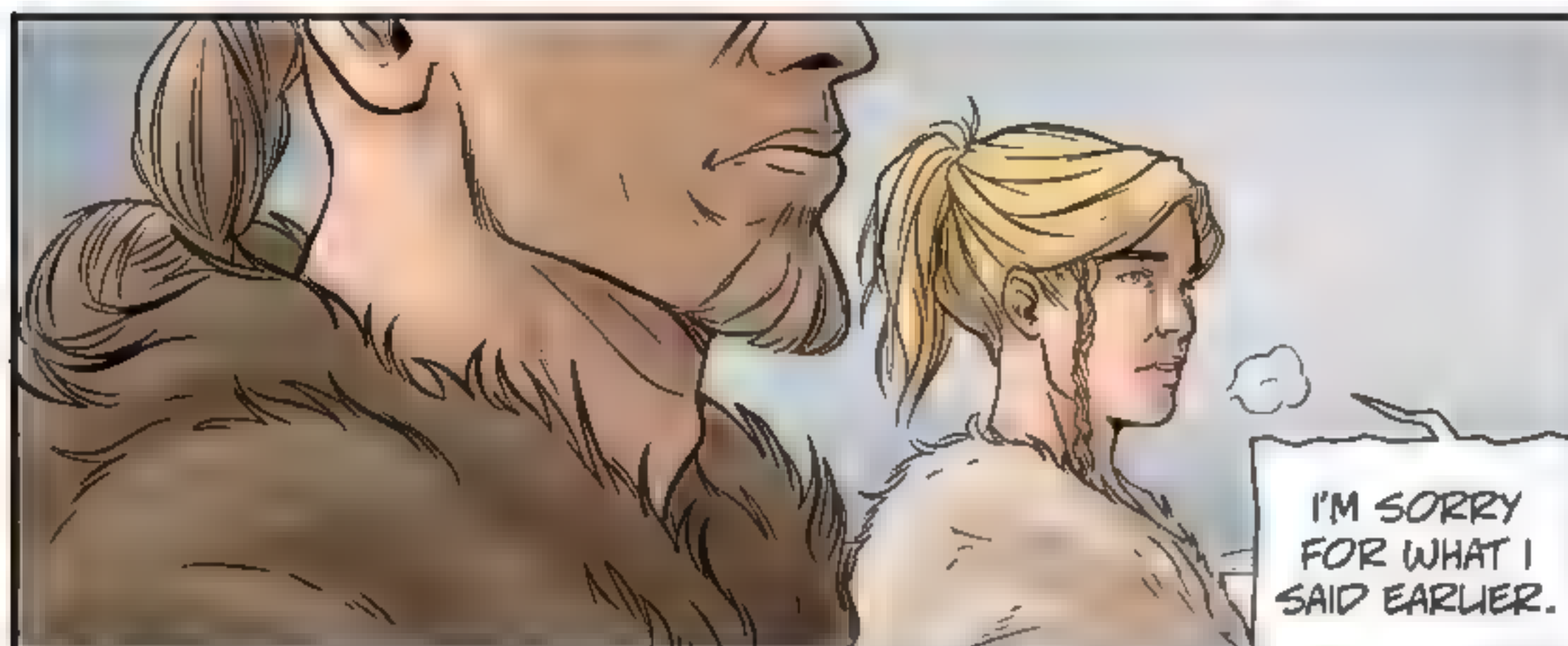




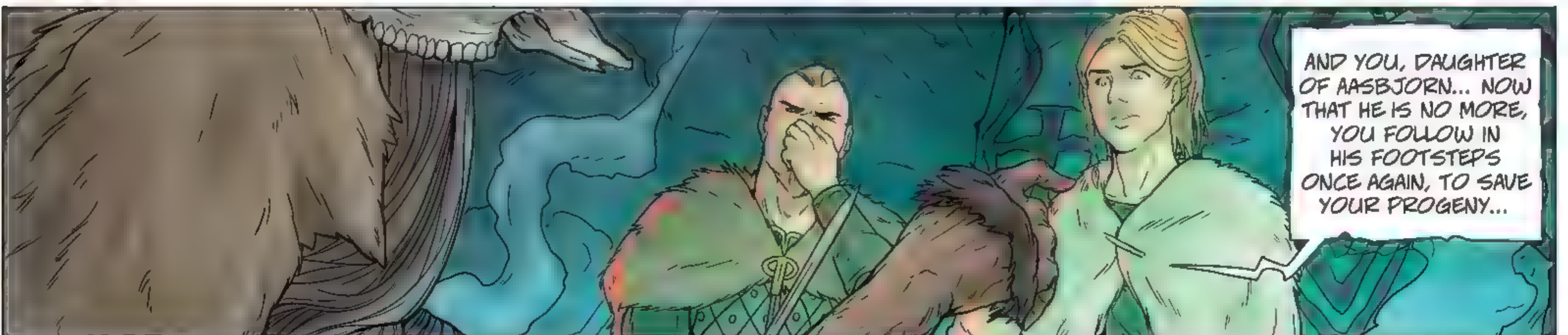
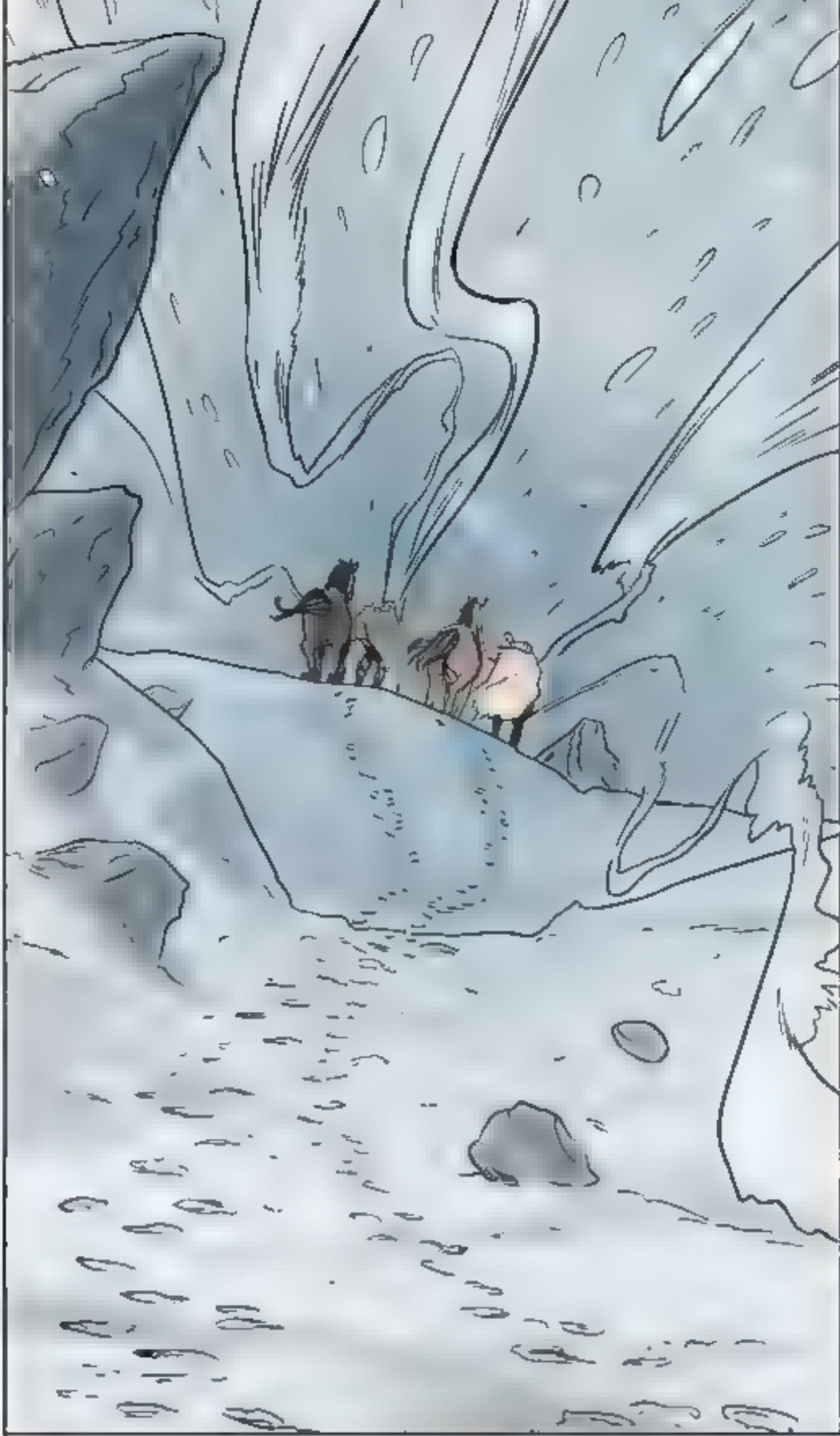
















HMM...  
YOU ARE  
STILL  
BLINDED BY  
HATRED...

YOU CANNOT SEE THAT YOU  
AND YOUR FATHER ALWAYS  
HAD THE SAME GOAL: TO DO  
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO  
PROTECT YOUR KIN,  
WHATEVER THE COST!



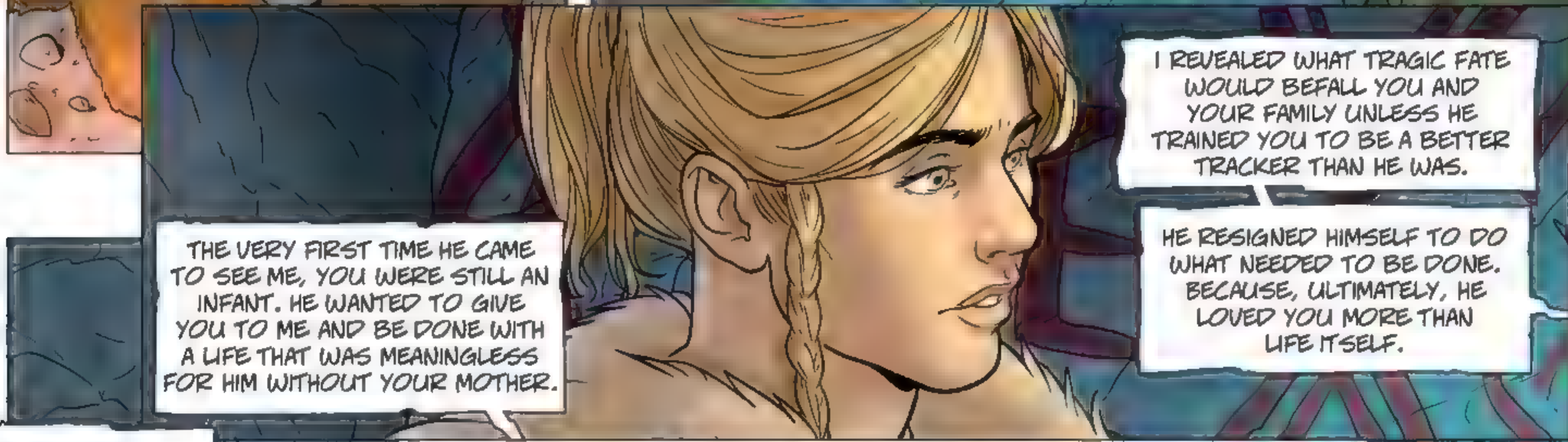
HE NEVER CARED  
ABOUT ME. HE ONLY  
EVER USED ME TO  
REPLACE MY  
MOTHER.



TELL ME HOW YOU WOULD  
RAISE YOUR DAUGHTER IF ONE  
DAY YOU FOUND OUT THAT SHE  
WOULD NEED TO TACKLE THE  
EXACT SAME SITUATION YOU  
ARE FACING NOW?

WOULD YOU NOT STRIVE TO  
MAKE HER THE STRONGEST OF  
WARRIORS? AND PERHAPS BE  
TOO HARD ON HER AT THE RISK OF  
MAKING HER LOATHE YOU FOR IT...

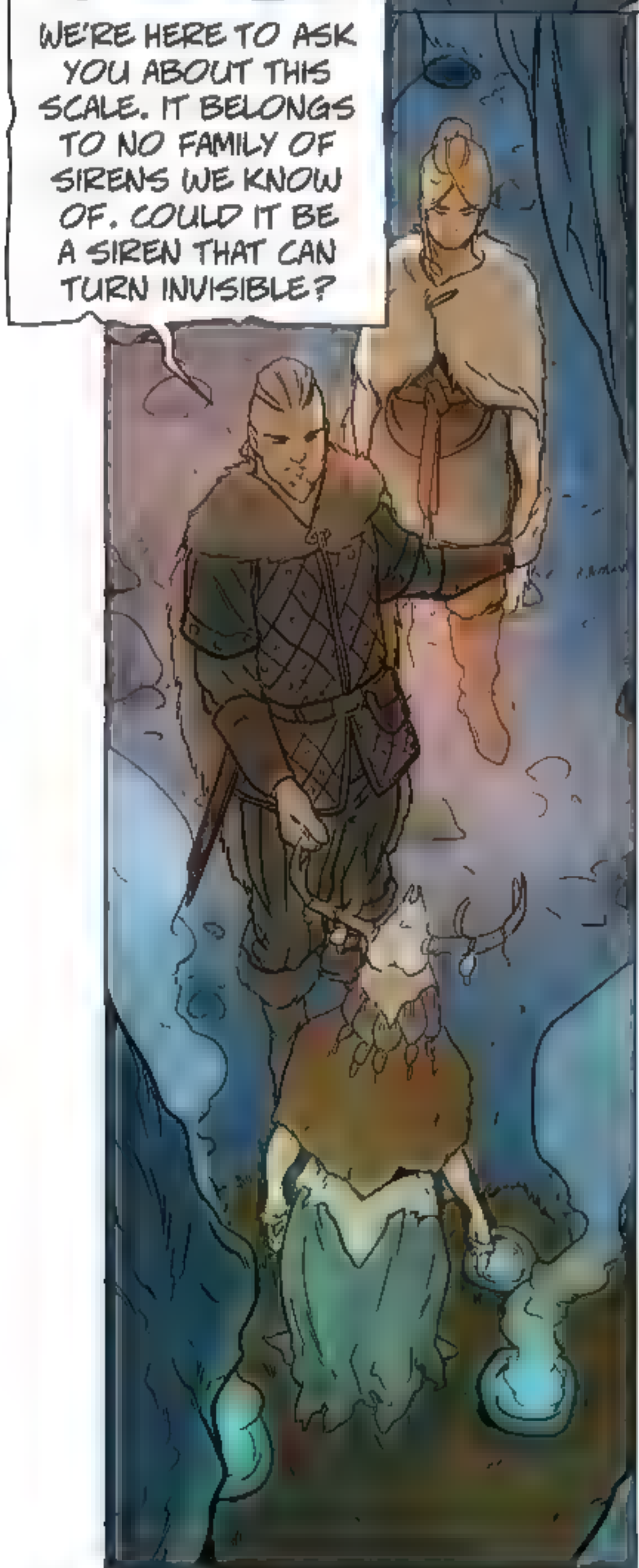
...SO LONG AS SHE EMERGED VICTORIOUS FROM  
A DESPERATE SITUATION LIKE YOURS TODAY?



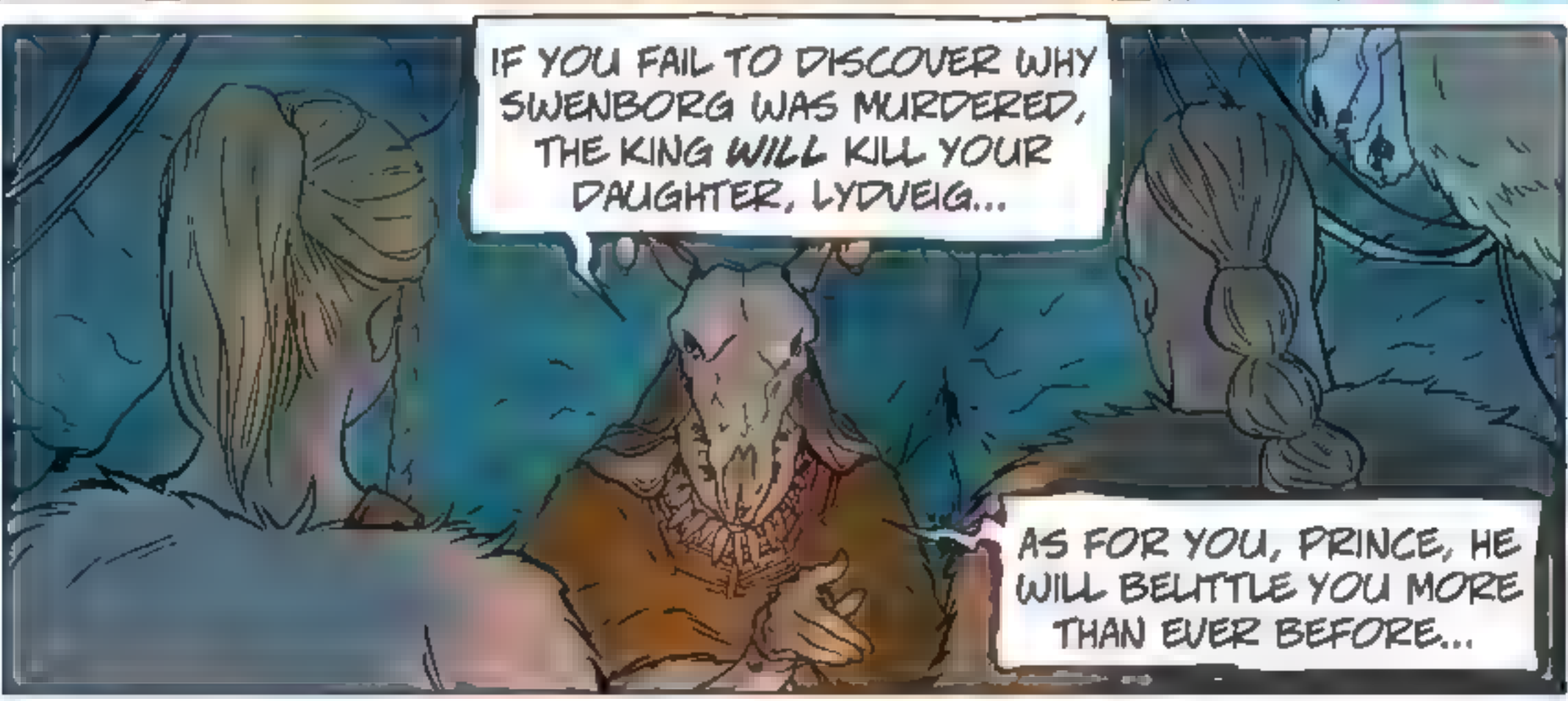
THE VERY FIRST TIME HE CAME  
TO SEE ME, YOU WERE STILL AN  
INFANT. HE WANTED TO GIVE  
YOU TO ME AND BE DONE WITH  
A LIFE THAT WAS MEANINGLESS  
FOR HIM WITHOUT YOUR MOTHER.

I REVEALED WHAT TRAGIC FATE  
WOULD BEFALL YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILY UNLESS HE  
TRAINED YOU TO BE A BETTER  
TRACKER THAN HE WAS.

HE RESIGNED HIMSELF TO DO  
WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.  
BECAUSE, ULTIMATELY, HE  
LOVED YOU MORE THAN  
LIFE ITSELF.



WE'RE HERE TO ASK  
YOU ABOUT THIS  
SCALE. IT BELONGS  
TO NO FAMILY OF  
SIRENS WE KNOW  
OF. COULD IT BE  
A SIREN THAT CAN  
TURN INVISIBLE?



IF YOU FAIL TO DISCOVER WHY  
SWENBORG WAS MURDERED,  
THE KING WILL KILL YOUR  
DAUGHTER, LYDVEIG...

AS FOR YOU, PRINCE, HE  
WILL BELITTLE YOU MORE  
THAN EVER BEFORE...

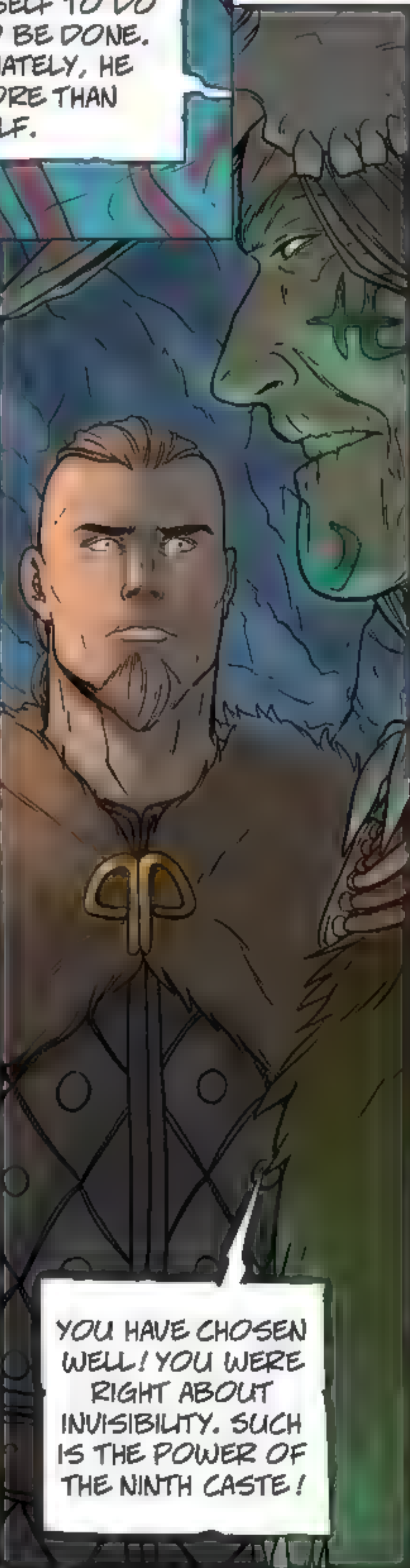


SINCE YOU SEEM TO  
KNOW EVERYTHING,  
WITCH, I'M LISTENING...



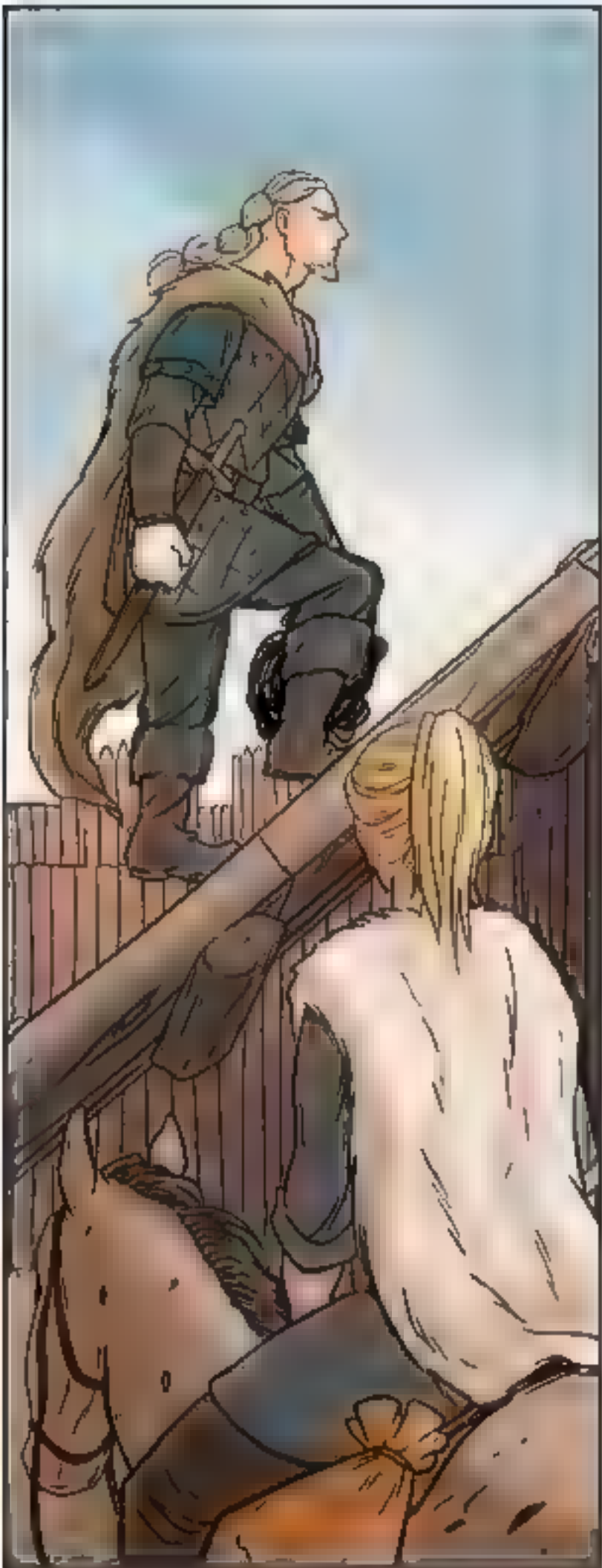
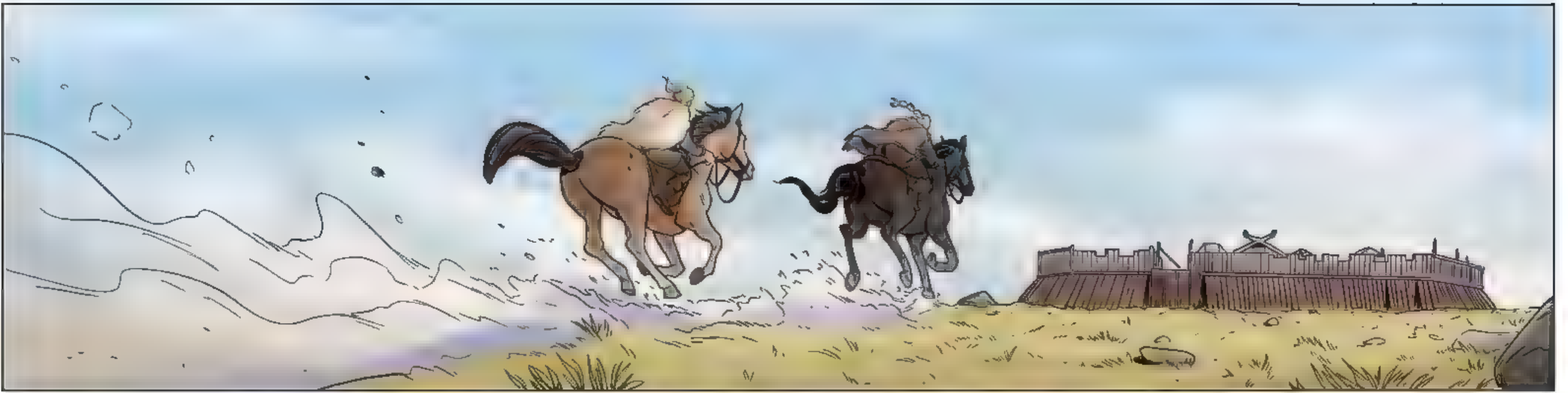
DESTINY WOULD WEAVE MANY A  
THREAD IF YOU TOOK MY LIFE AT  
THIS INSTANT, BUT NONE OF THEM  
WOULD LEAD YOU TOWARD THE  
GLORY THAT YOU SO CRAVE...

IN ORDER FOR  
THAT TO HAPPEN,  
YOU MUST LEAVE  
ME ALIVE AND  
LEARN THE TRUTH  
FOR YOURSELVES.



YOU HAVE CHOSEN  
WELL! YOU WERE  
RIGHT ABOUT  
INVISIBILITY. SUCH  
IS THE POWER OF  
THE NINTH CASTE!





VIKINGS! I SEVERED GUNNAR'S HEAD MYSELF, FOR HE HAD BETRAYED OUR CLAN!

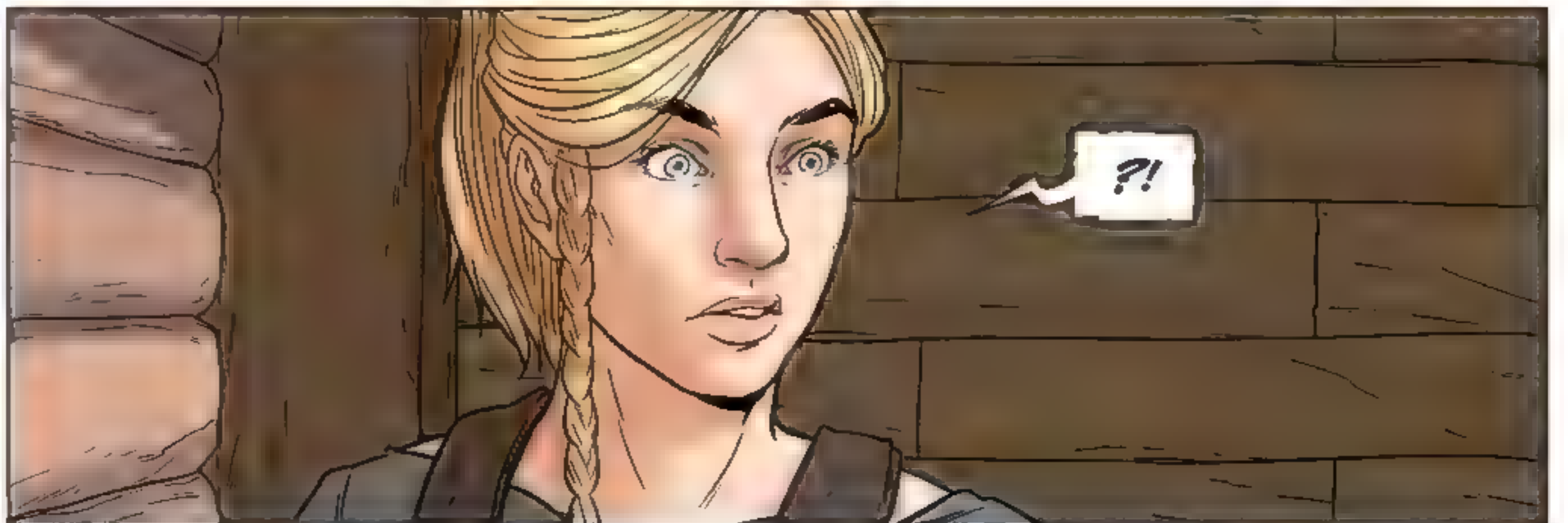
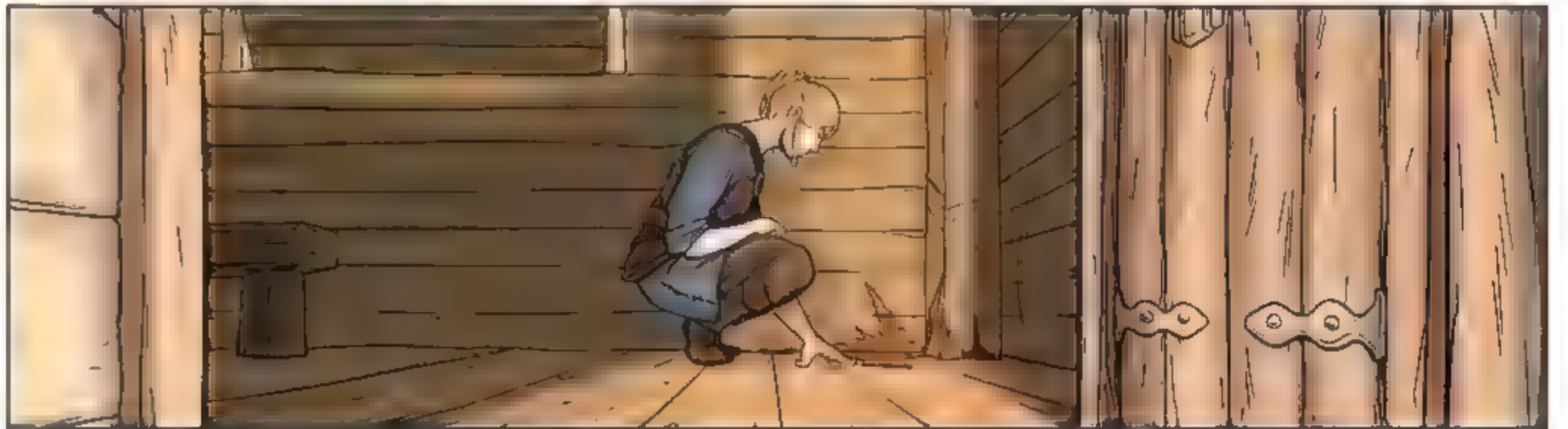
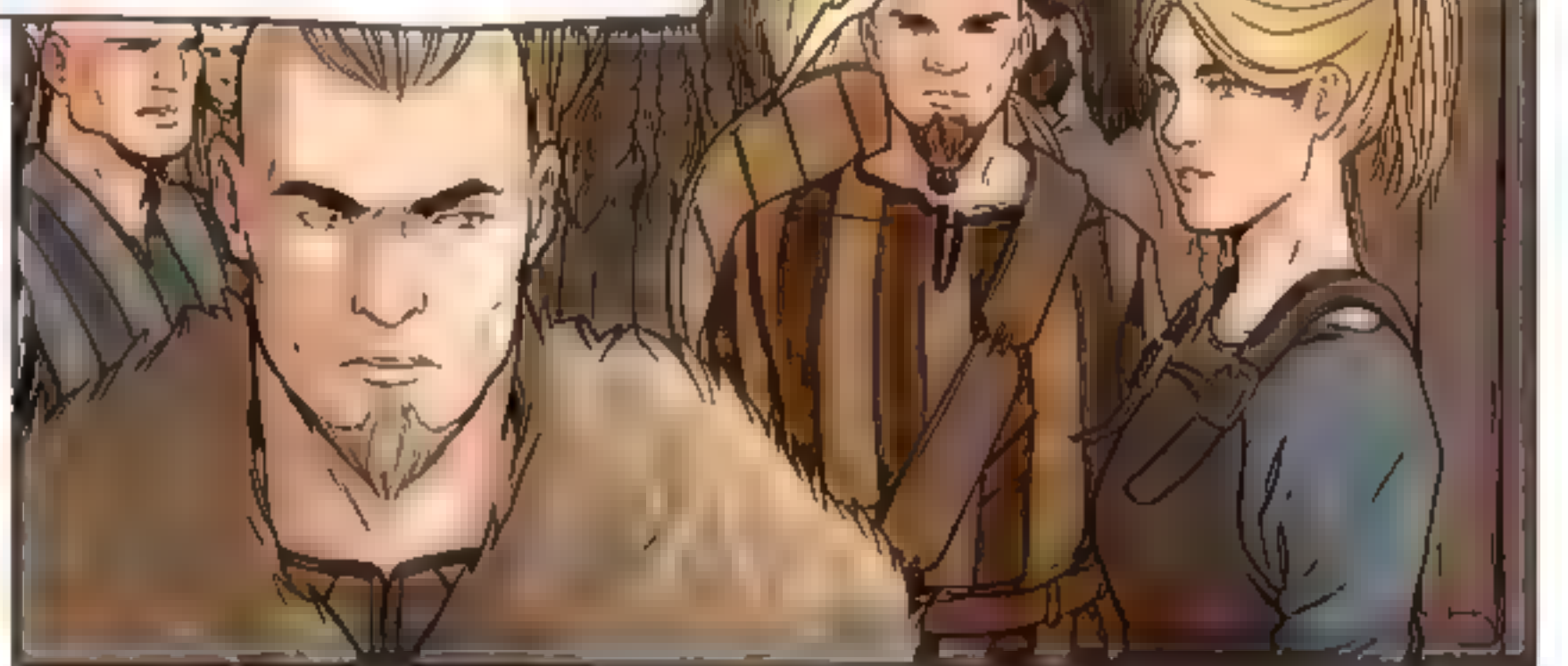
AND I'LL DO THE SAME TO ANYONE WHO DARES NOT SHOW ME RESPECT!



?!

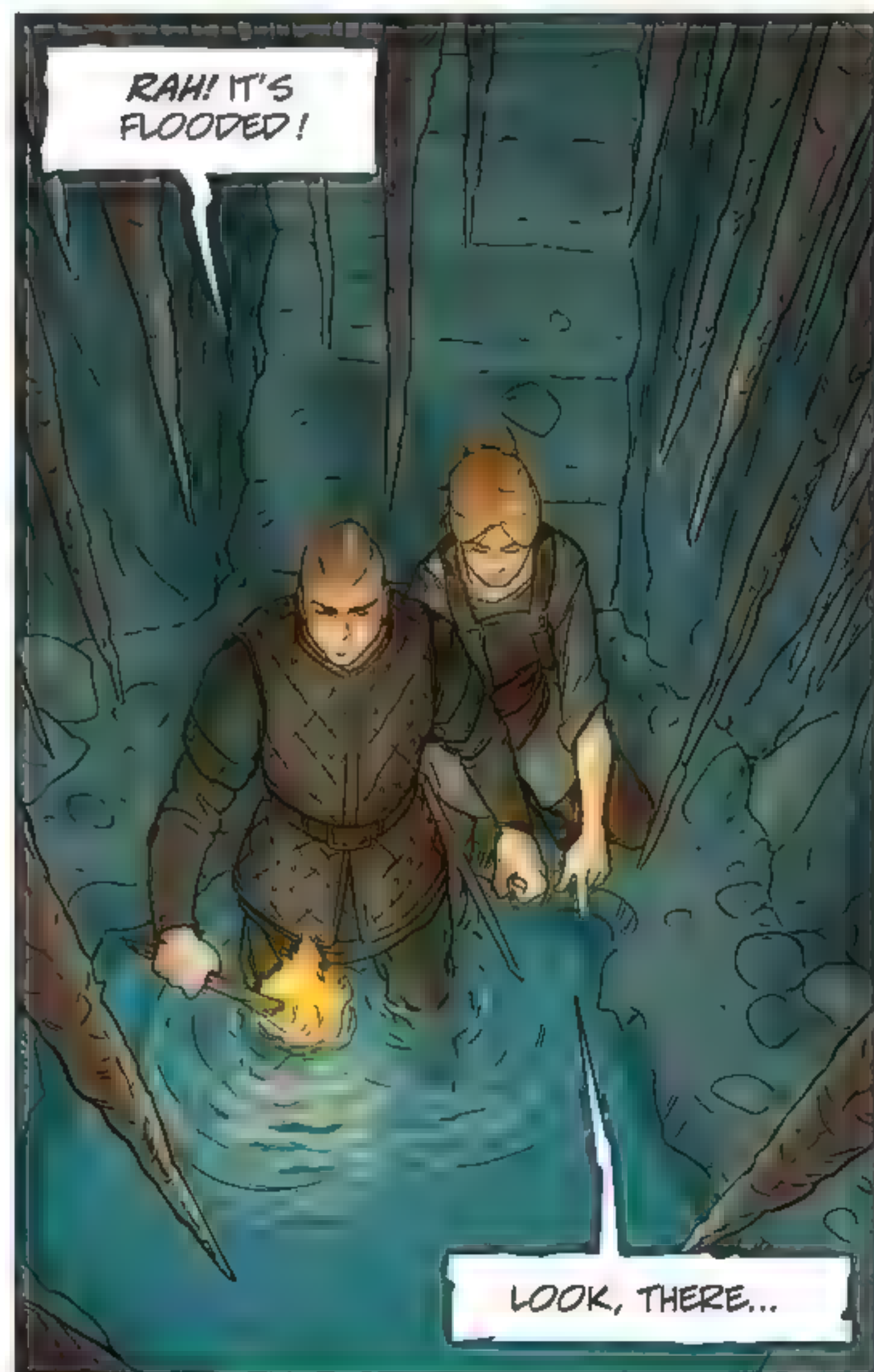
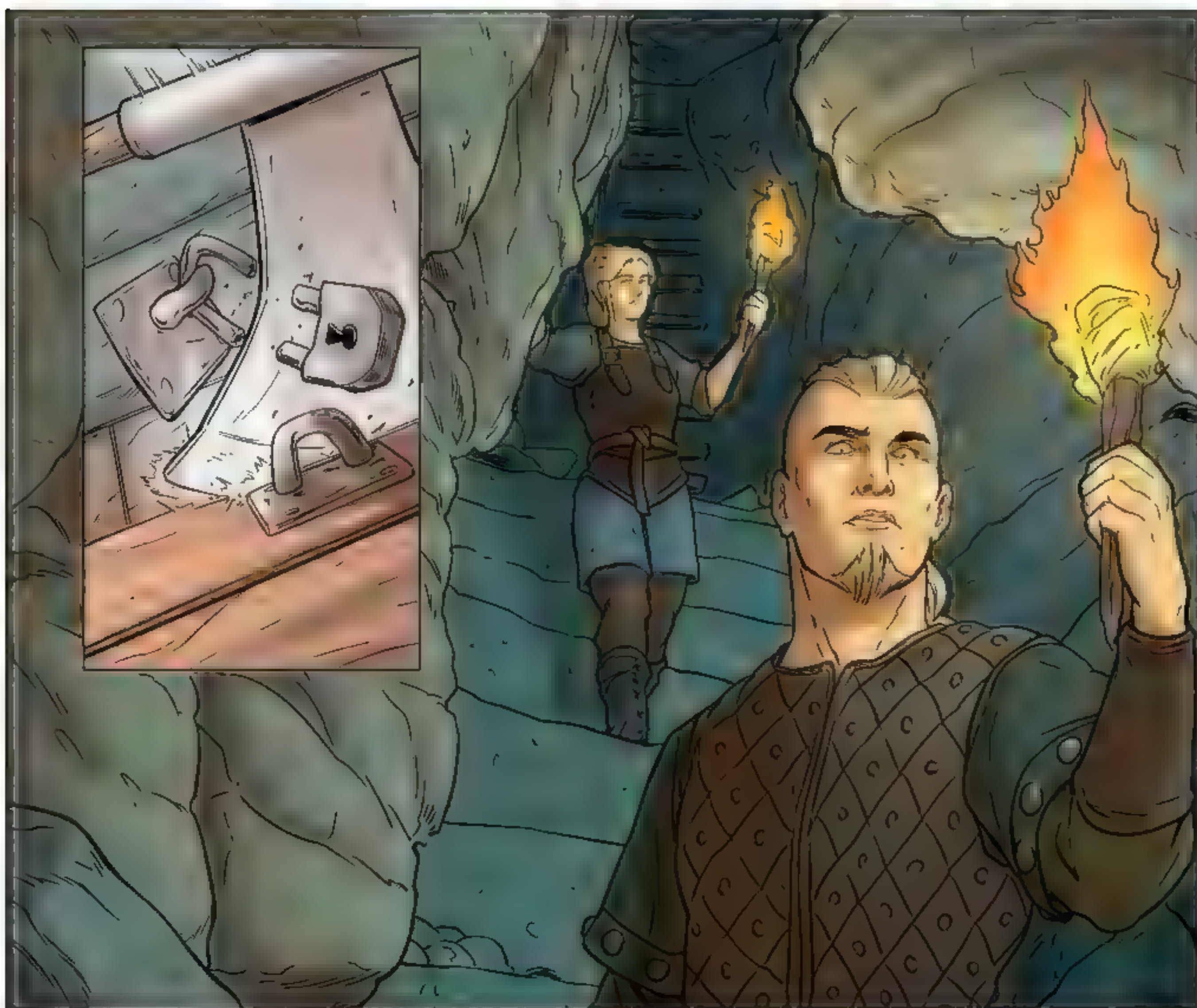
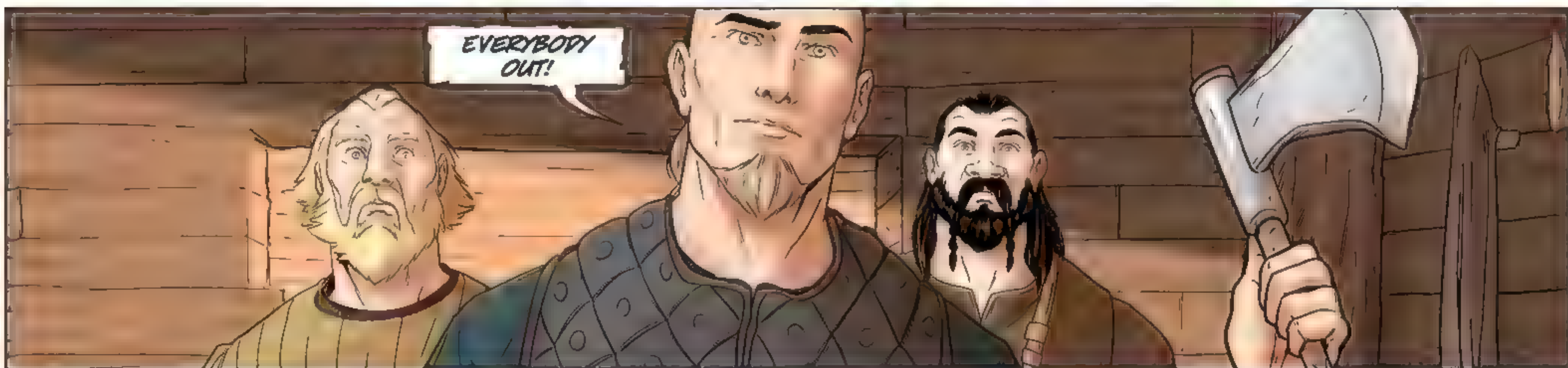
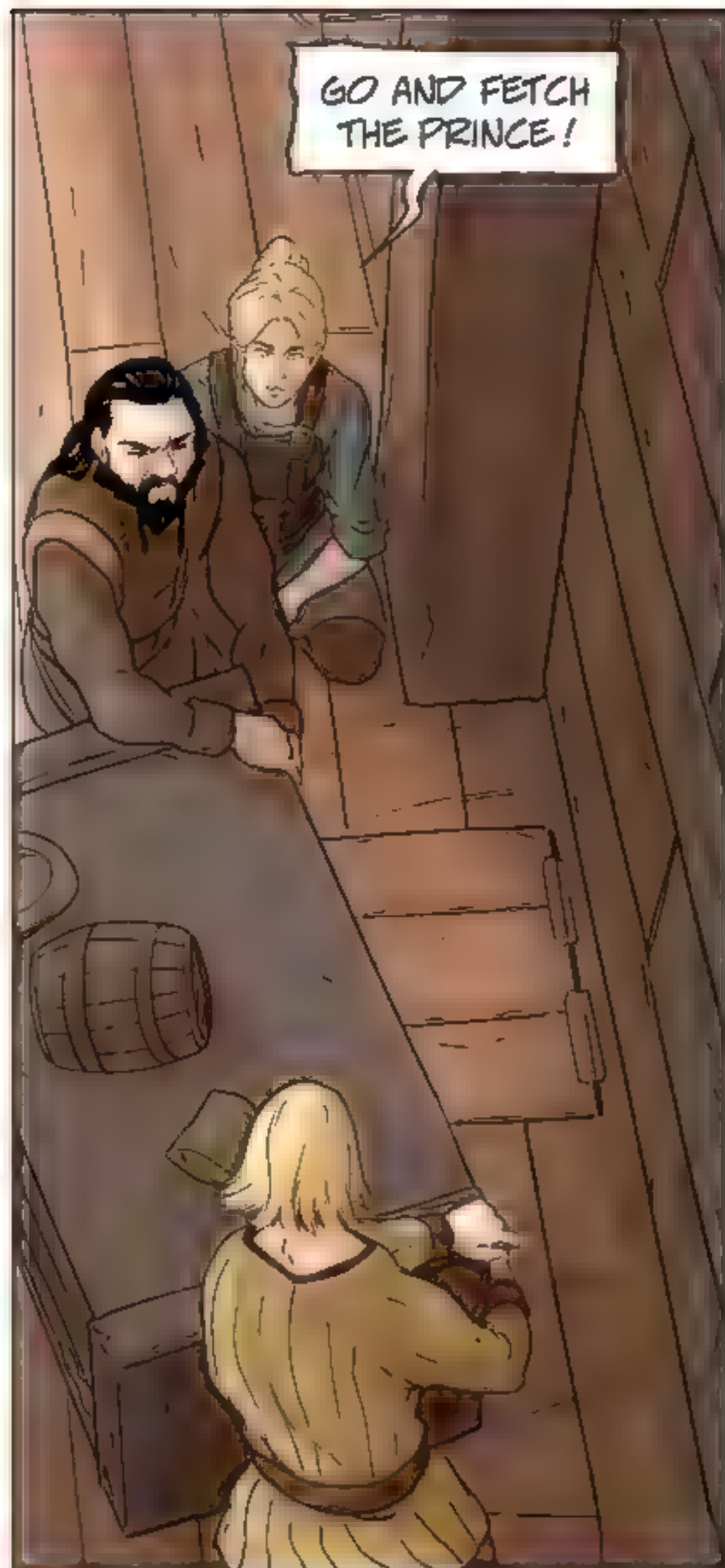
WHETHER YOU FIND WHAT THE NORN WAS TALKING ABOUT OR NOT, WE'LL LEAVE FOR THE FORTRESS AT DAWN.

WHEN FATHER SEES I'VE BROUGHT HIM THE TRANSPARENT SCALE, AT LAST HE'LL KNOW I'M FIT TO RULE BESIDE HIM.



?!

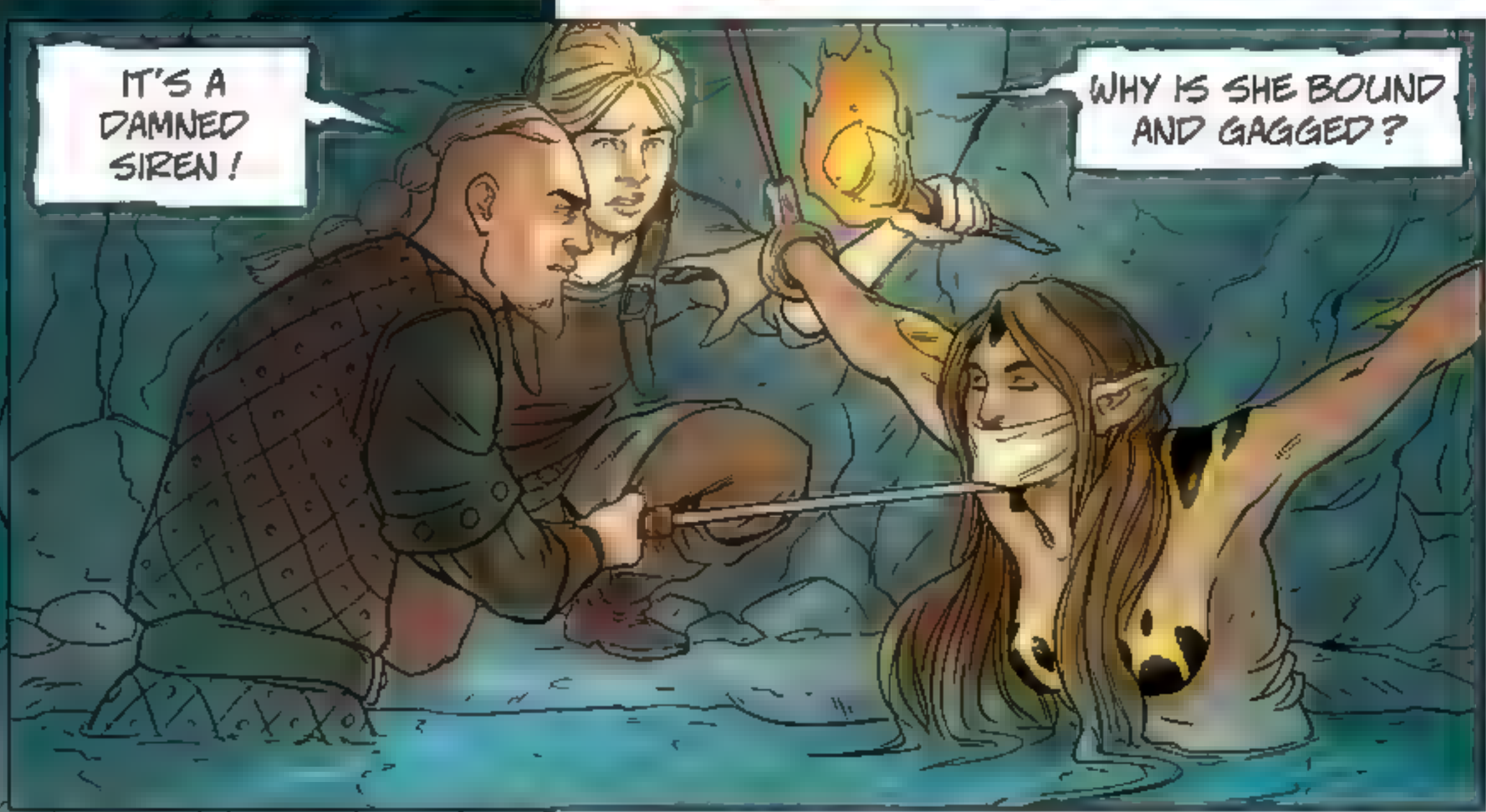
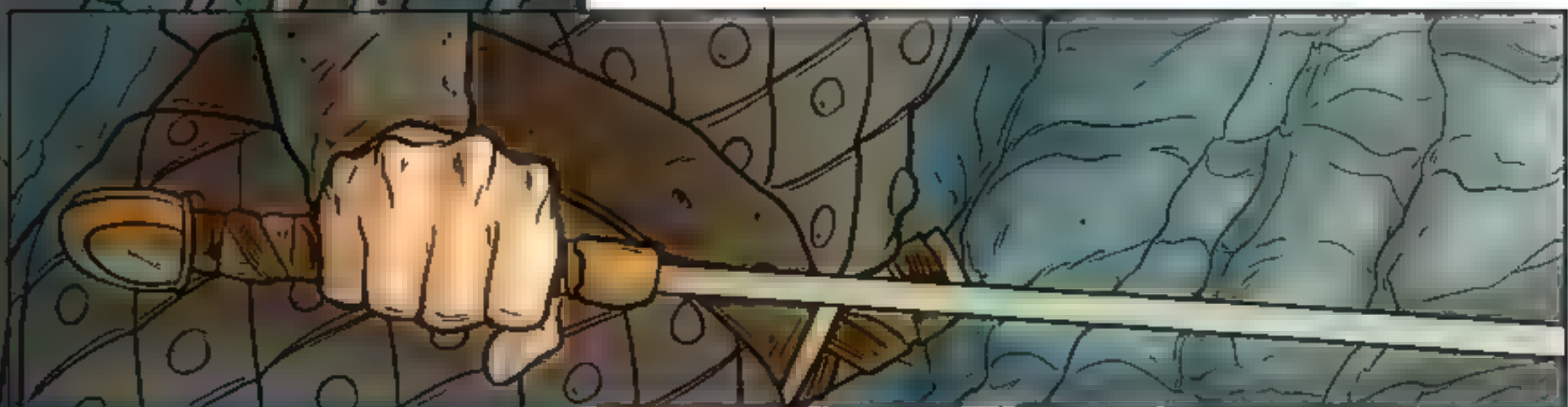






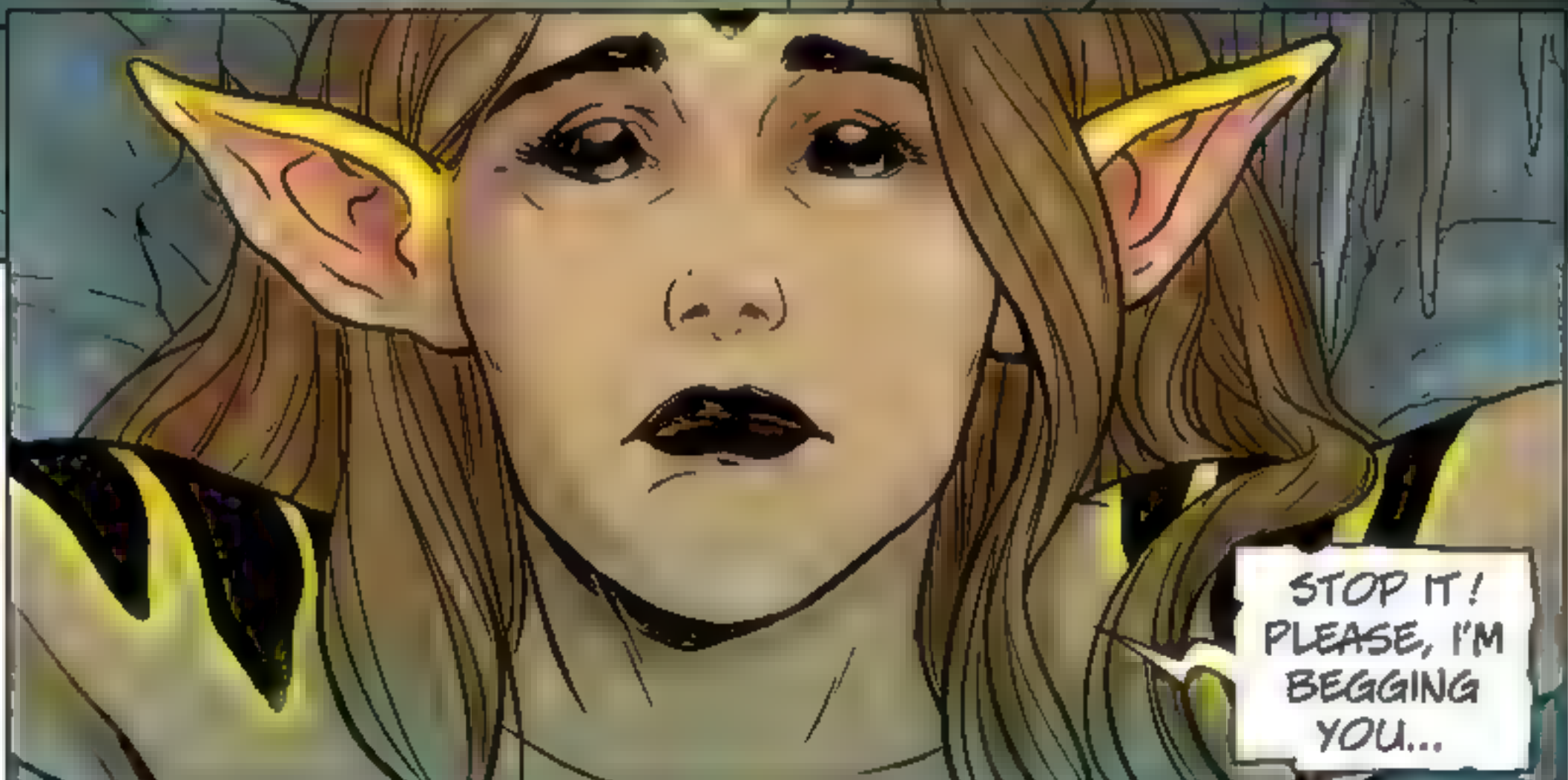
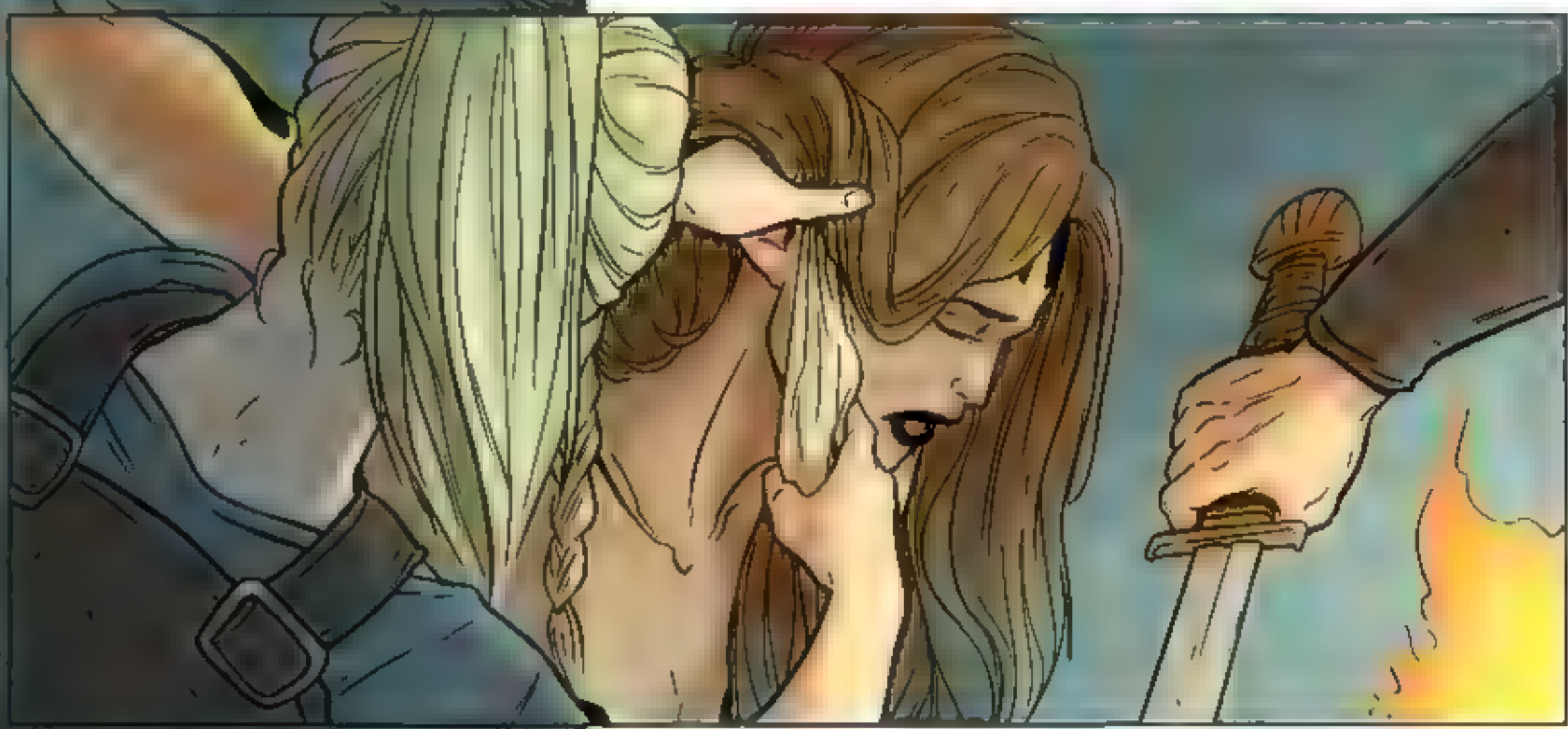


WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?

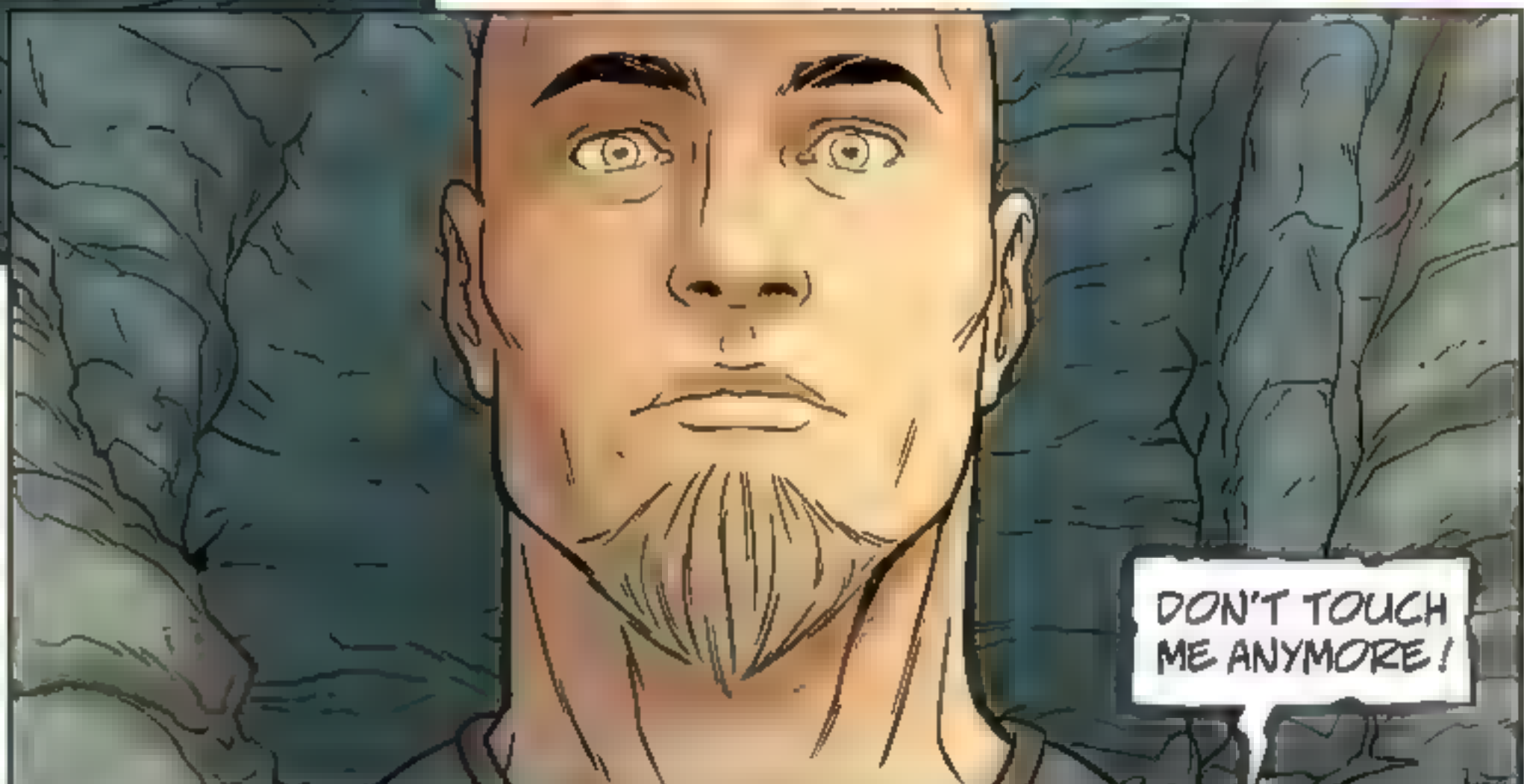


IT'S A DAMNED SIREN!

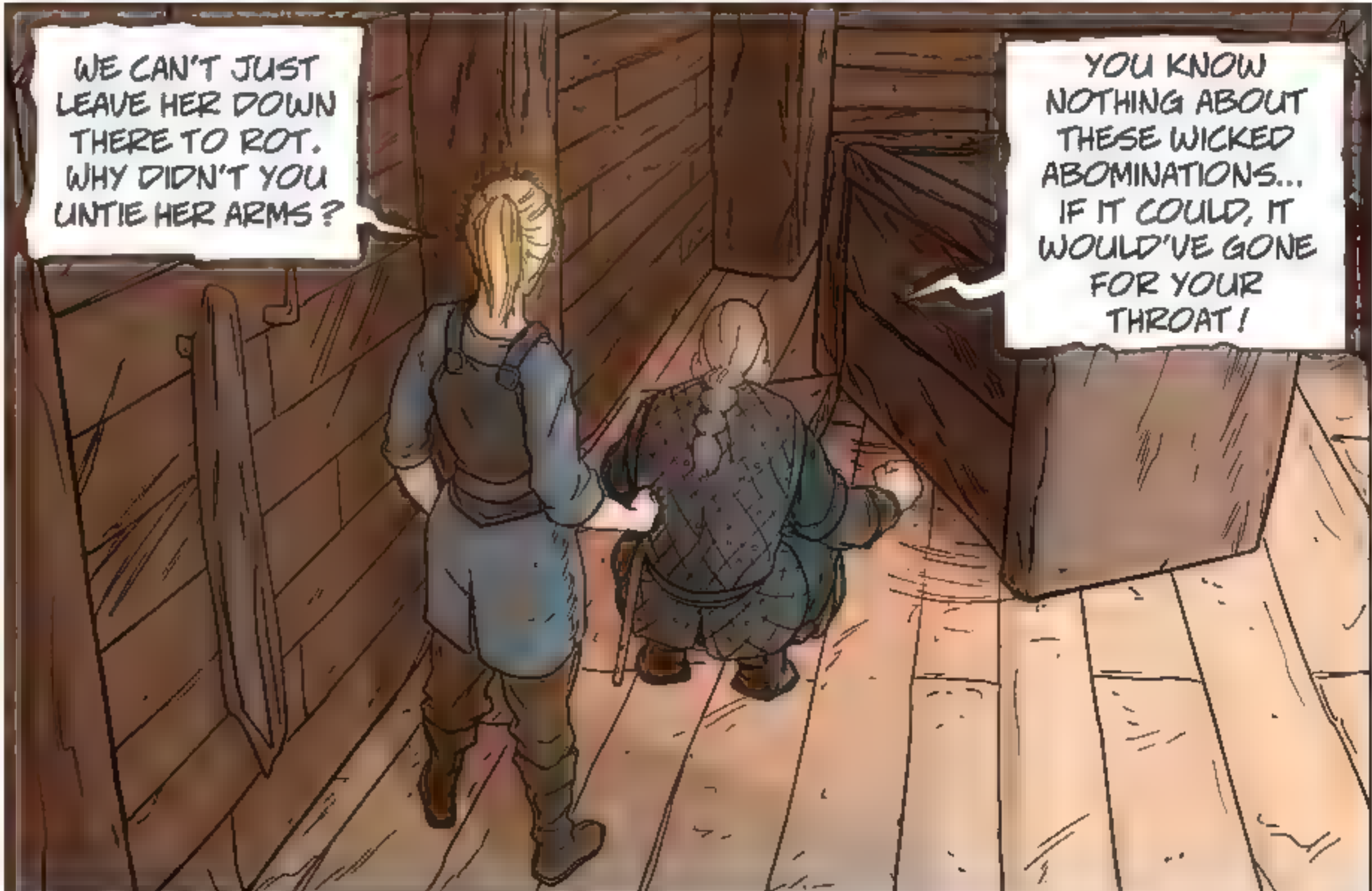
WHY IS SHE BOUND AND GAGGED?



STOP IT! PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU...



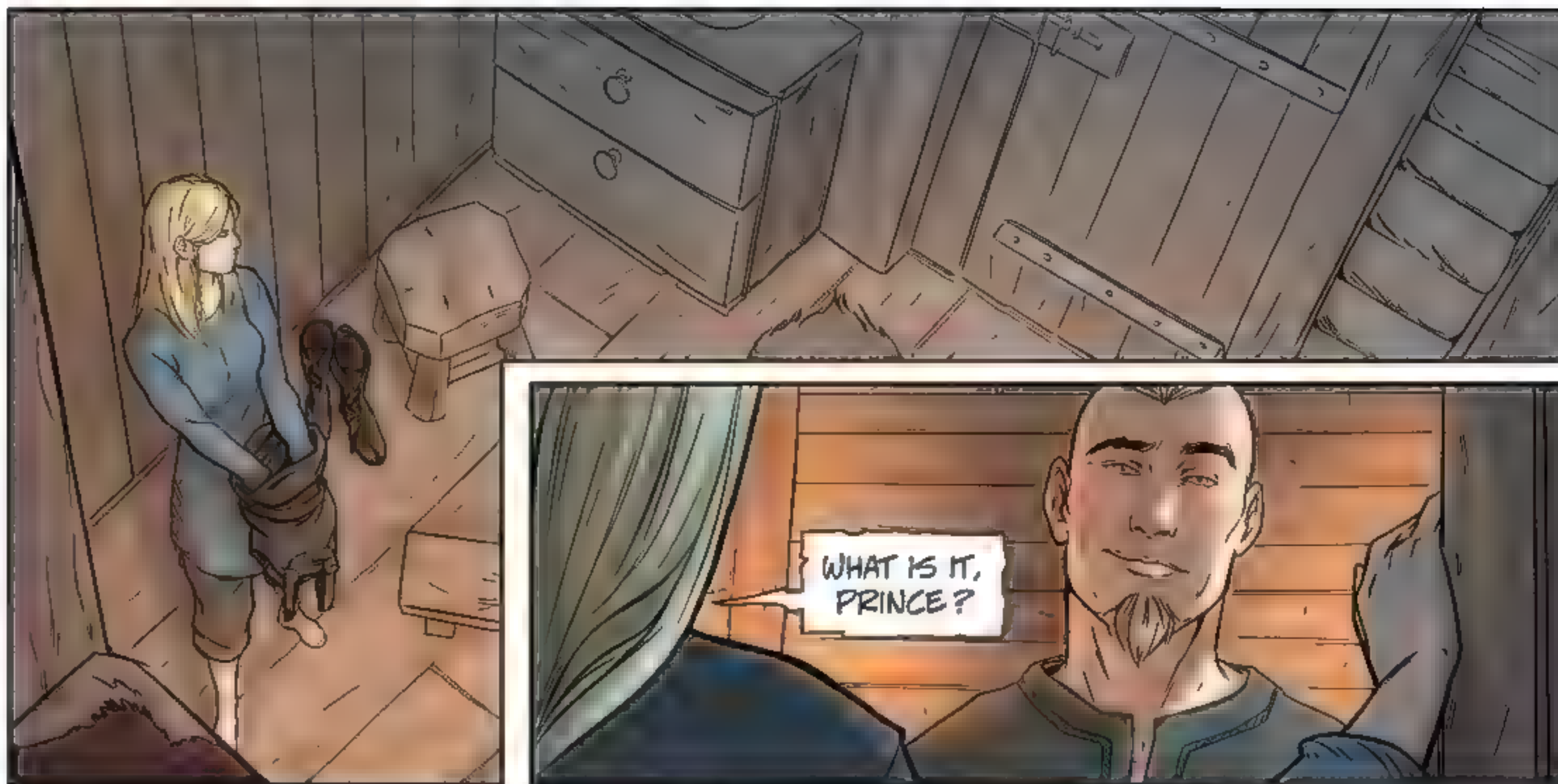
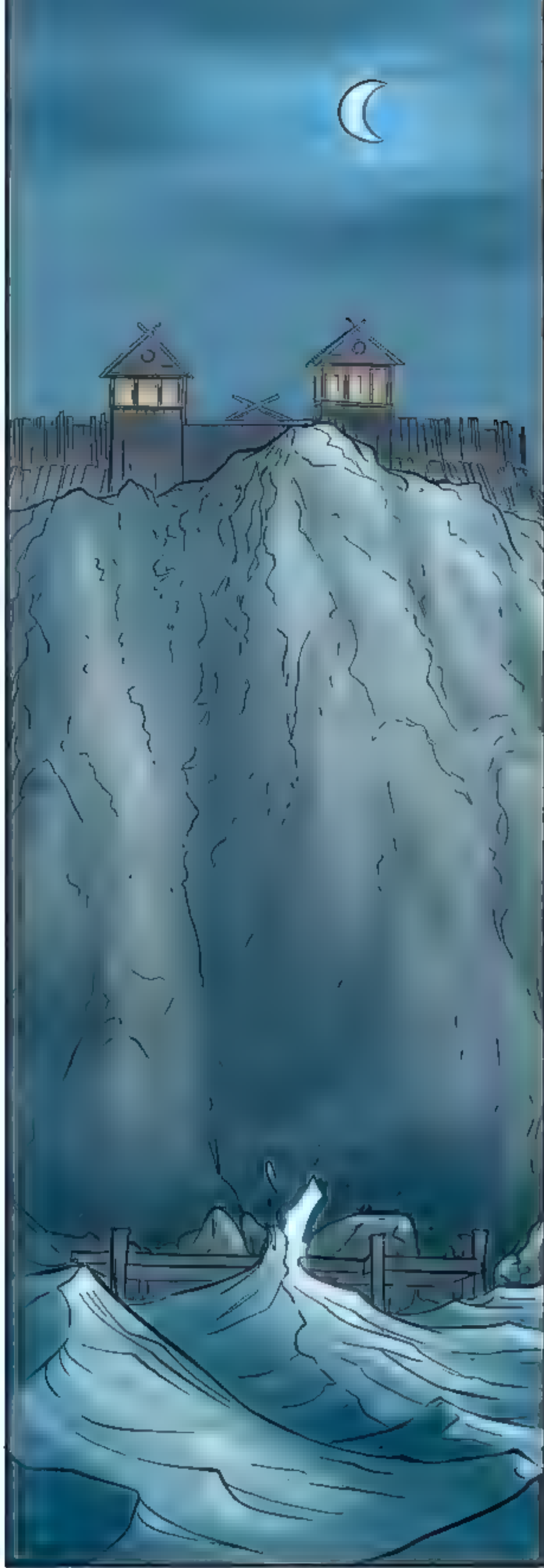
DON'T TOUCH ME ANYMORE!



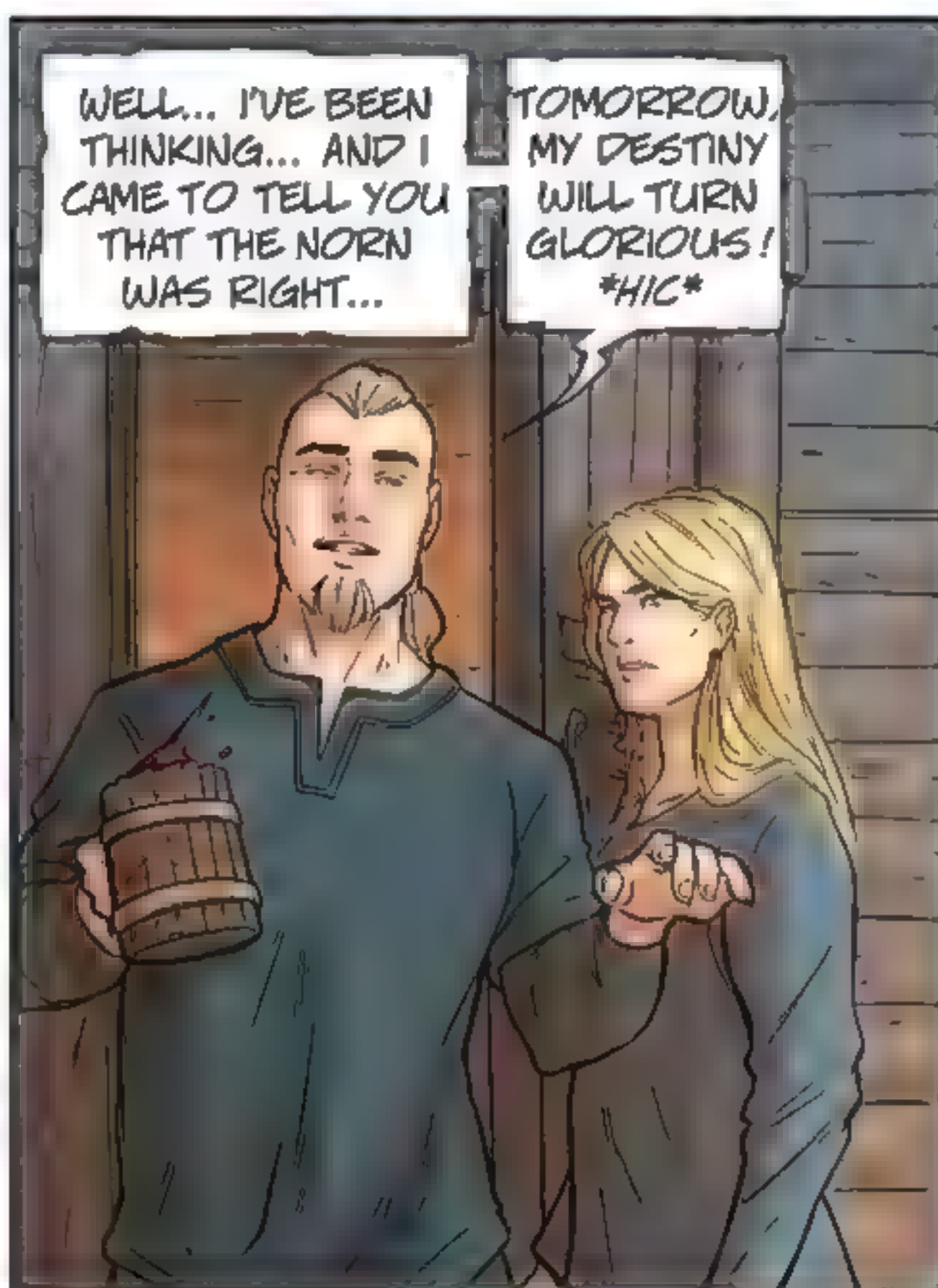
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER DOWN THERE TO ROT. WHY DIDN'T YOU UNTIE HER ARMS?

YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THESE WICKED ABOMINATIONS... IF IT COULD, IT WOULD'VE GONE FOR YOUR THROAT!



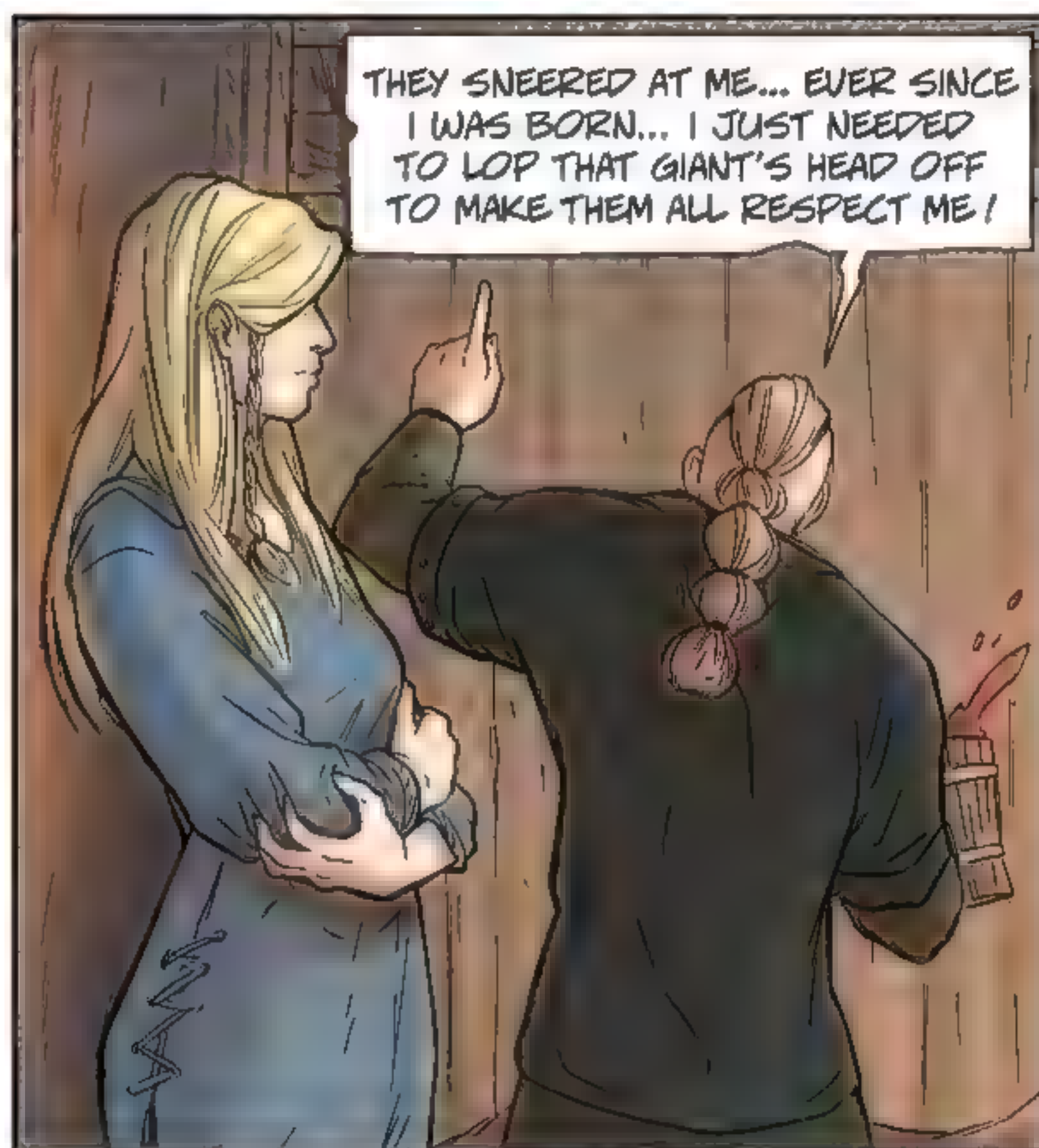


WHAT IS IT, PRINCE?



WELL... I'VE BEEN THINKING... AND I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT THE NORN WAS RIGHT...

TOMORROW, MY DESTINY WILL TURN GLORIOUS! \*HIC\*



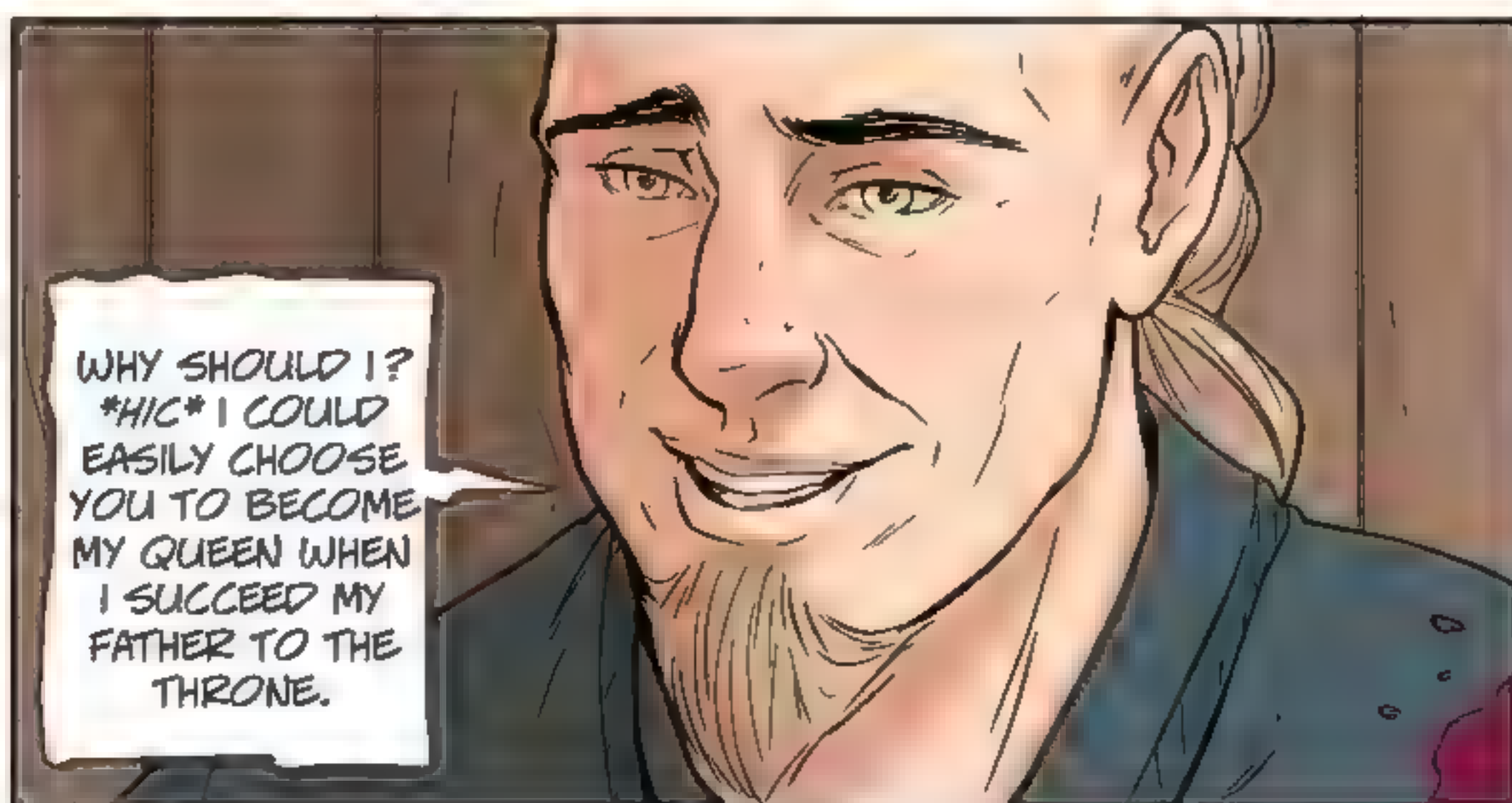
THEY SNEERED AT ME... EVER SINCE I WAS BORN... I JUST NEEDED TO LOP THAT GIANT'S HEAD OFF TO MAKE THEM ALL RESPECT ME!

AND MY BROTHER... MY BROTHER THAT THE KING WAS SO PROUD OF... HE WAS HAVING HIS WAY WITH A... FISH-WOMAN!



WHEN THERE ARE REAL WOMEN AS PRETTY AS YOU...

TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME AND LEAVE!

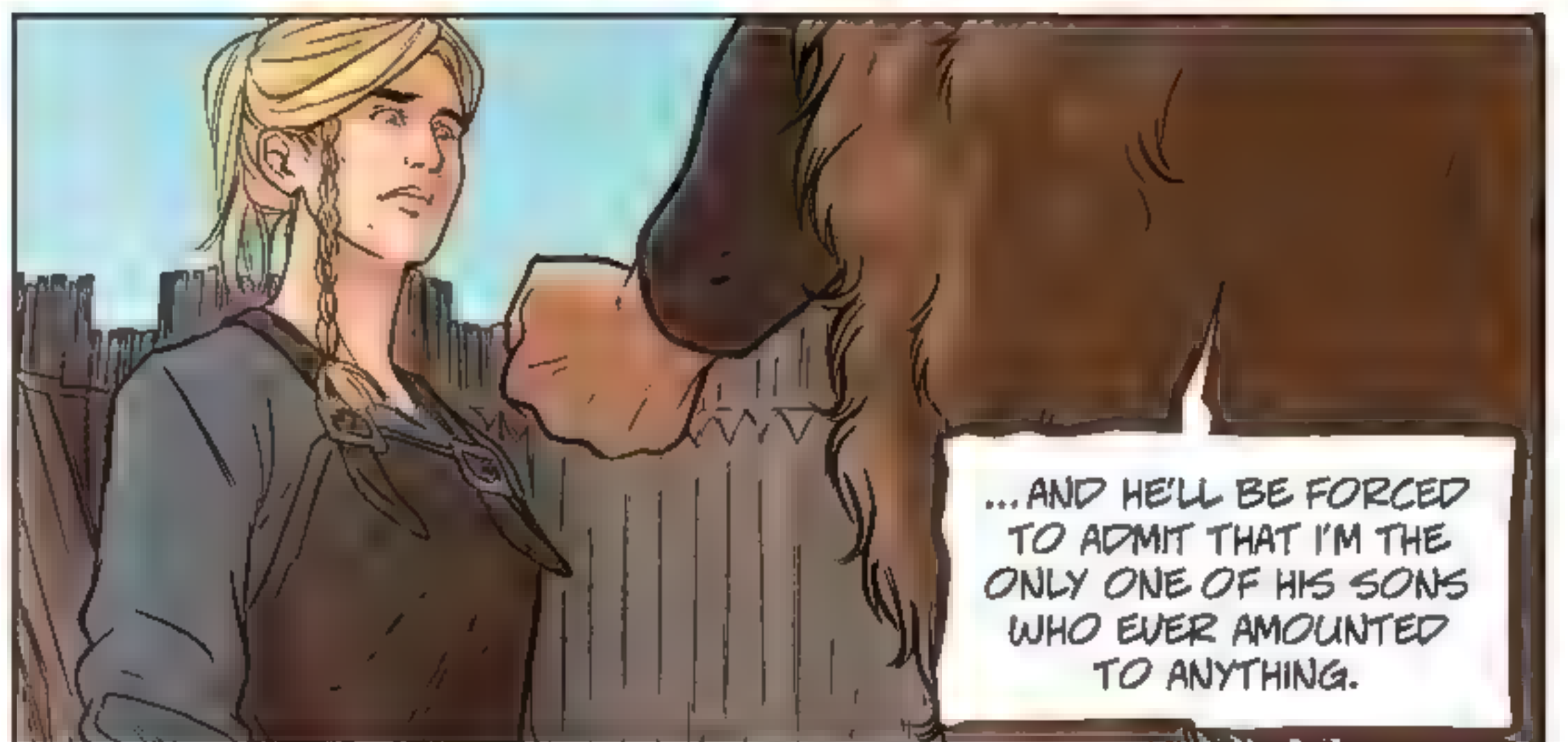
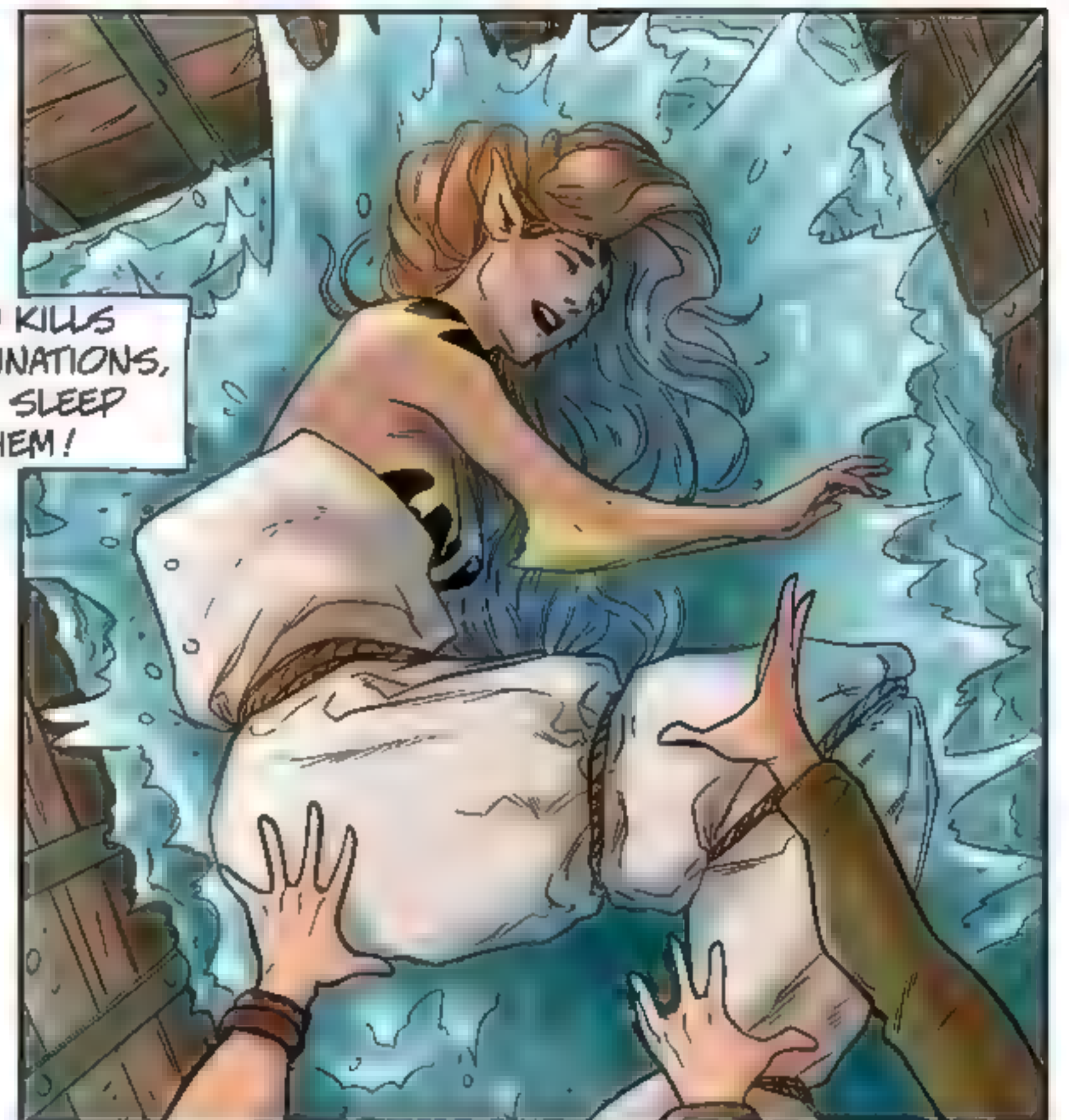
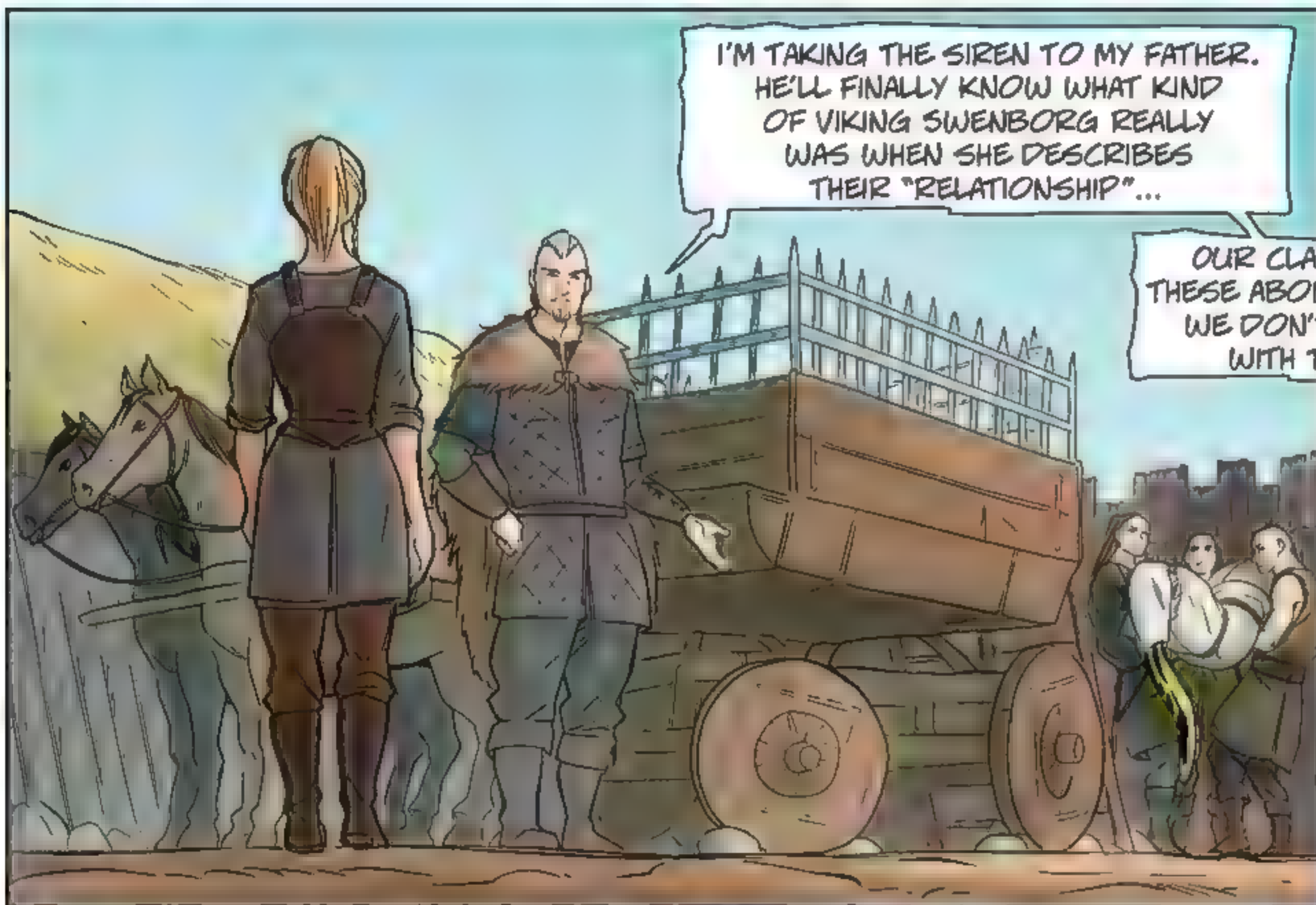
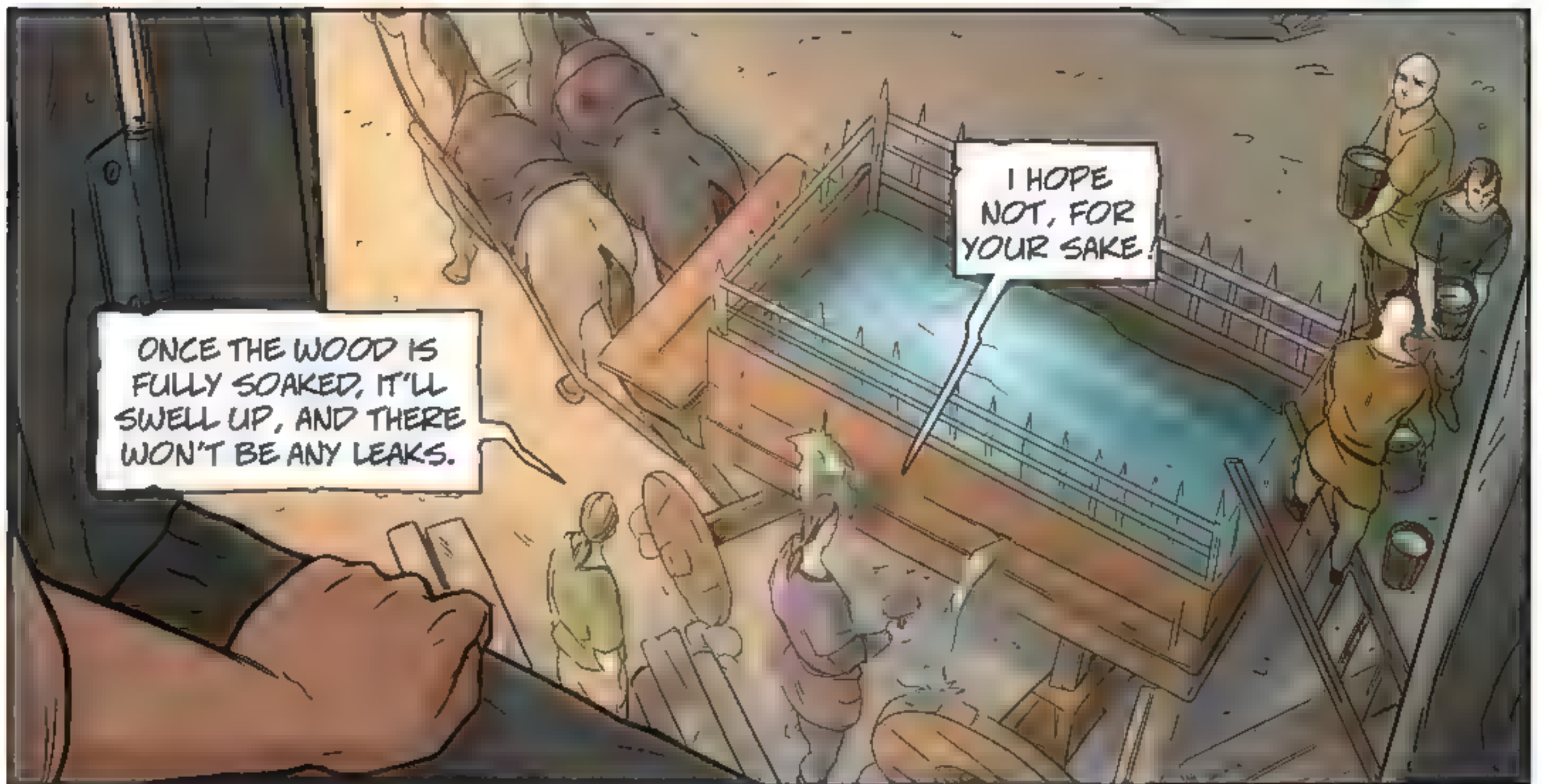
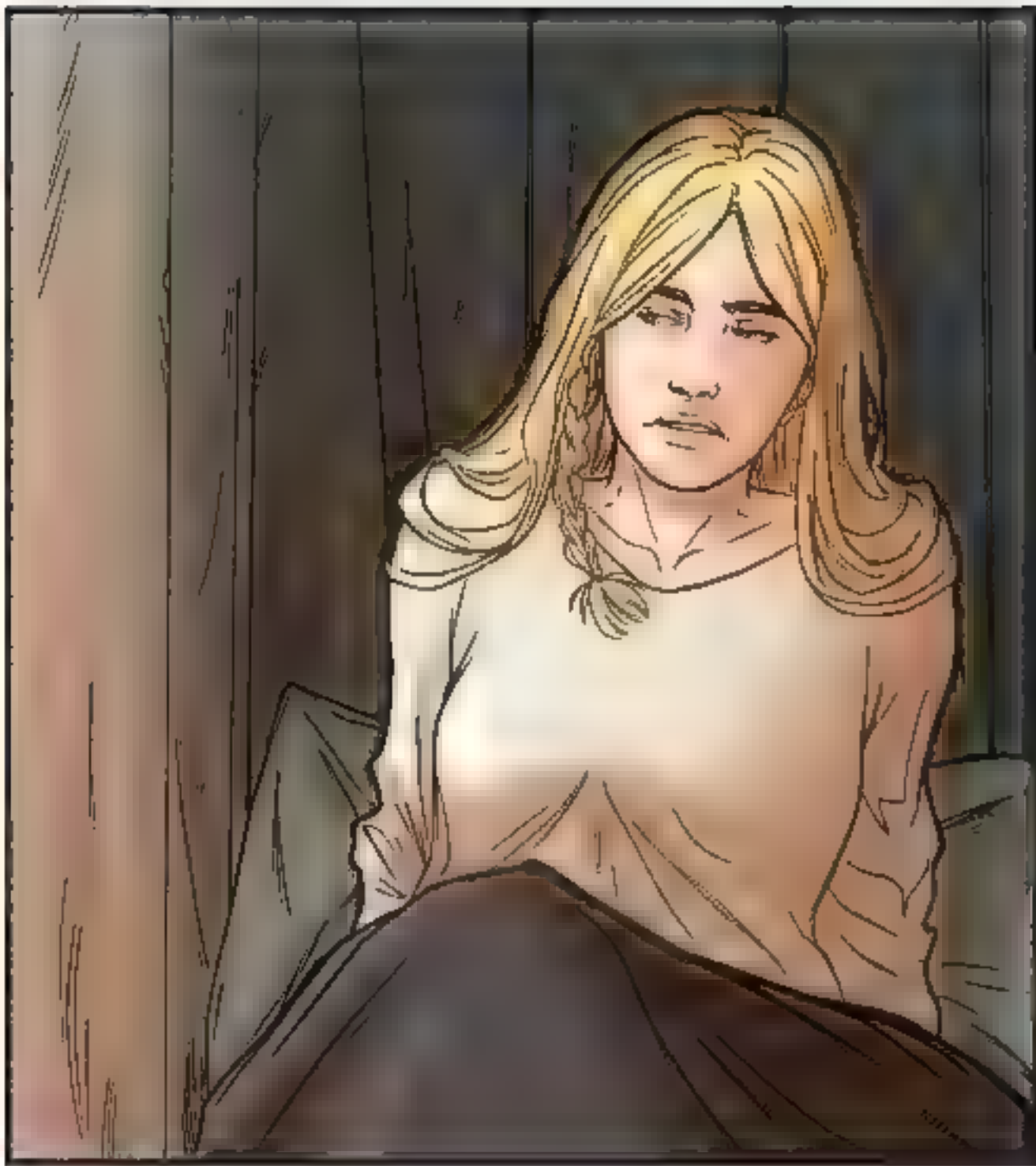


WHY SHOULD I? \*HIC\* I COULD EASILY CHOOSE YOU TO BECOME MY QUEEN WHEN I SUCCEED MY FATHER TO THE THRONE.

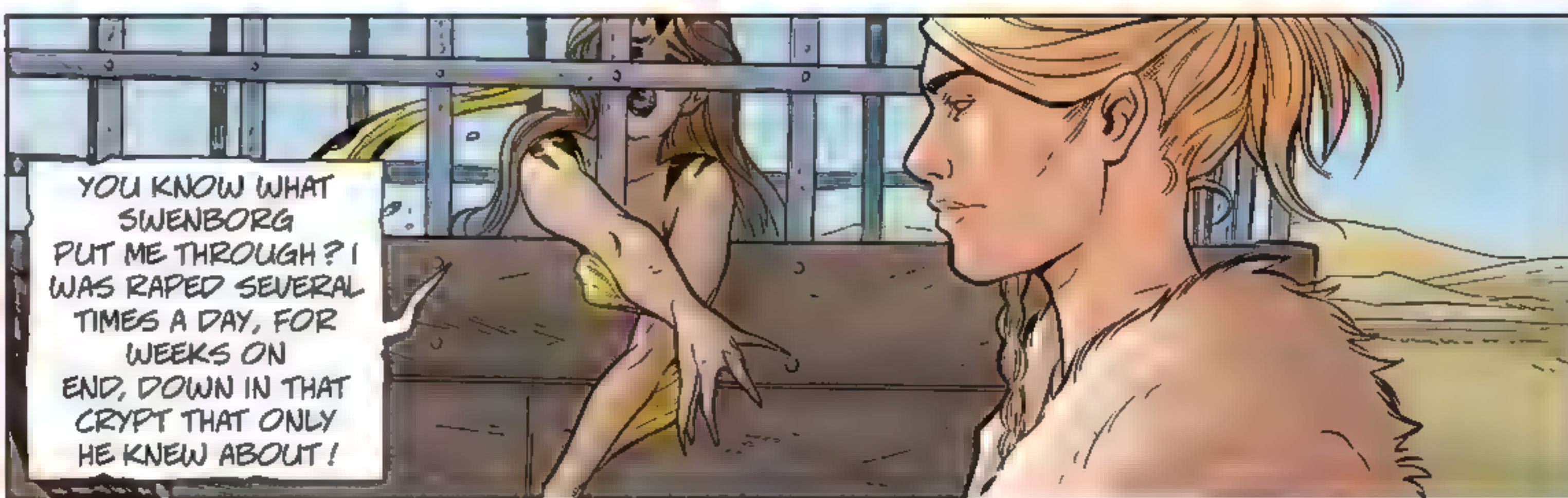
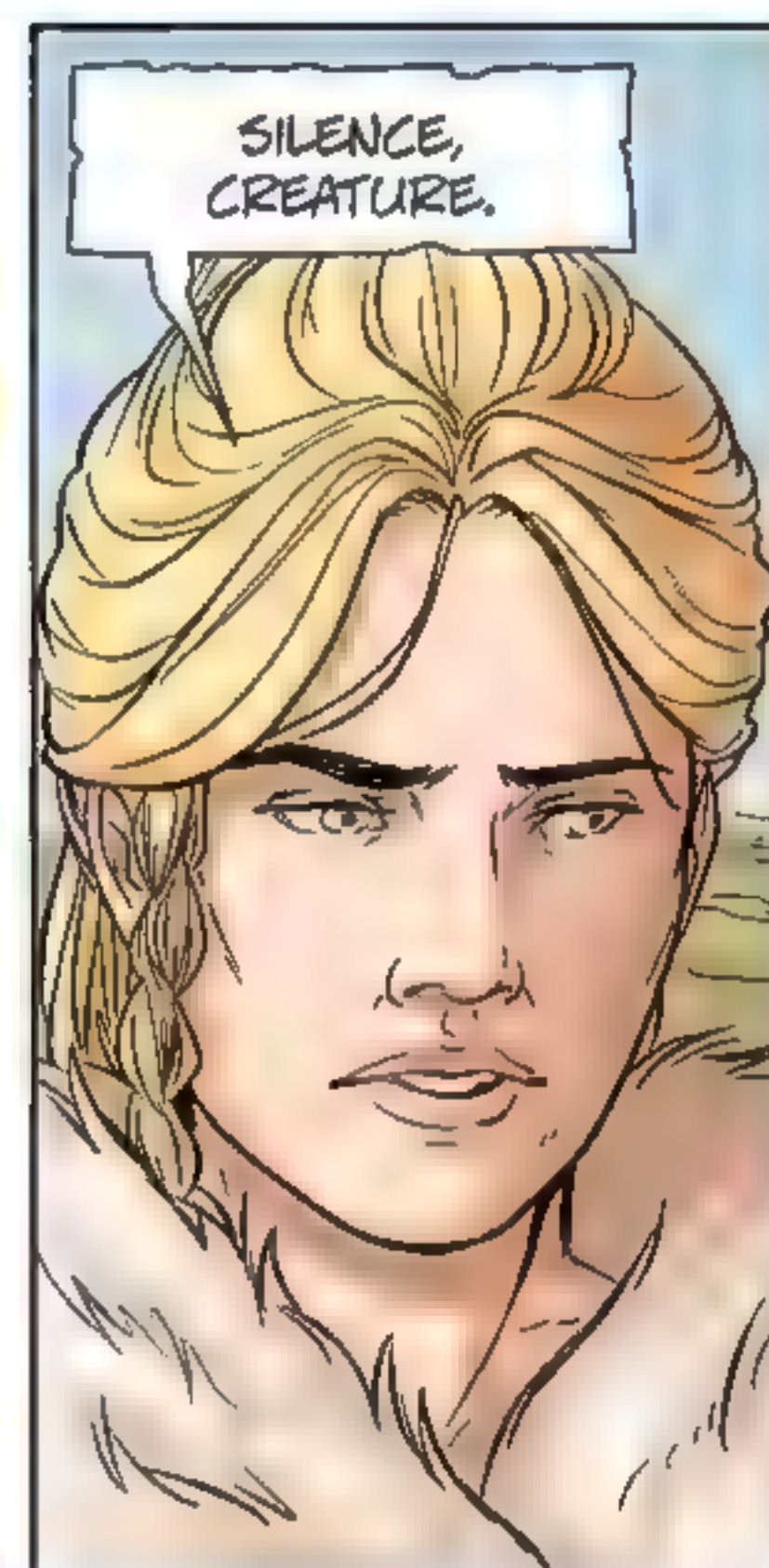
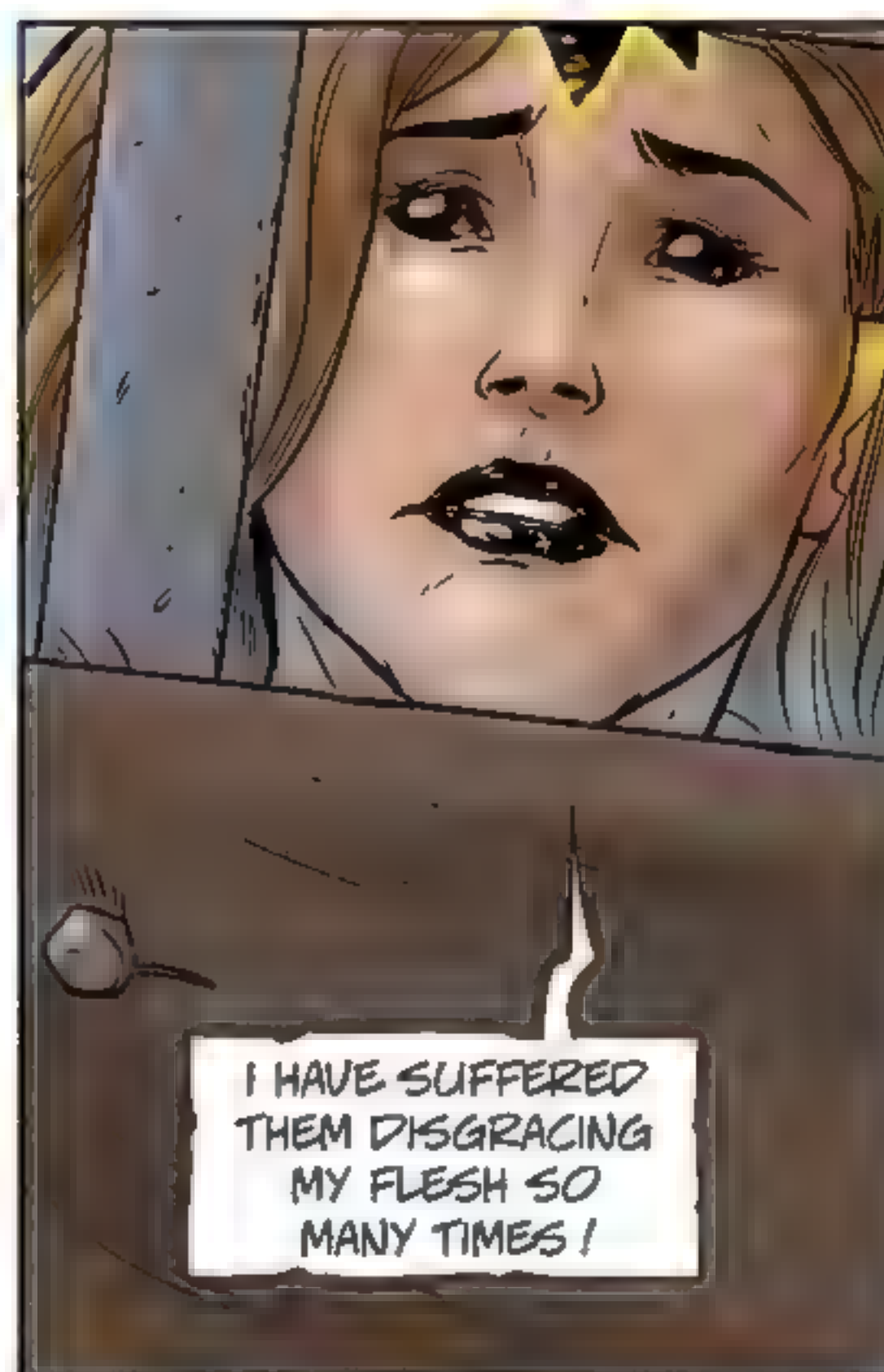
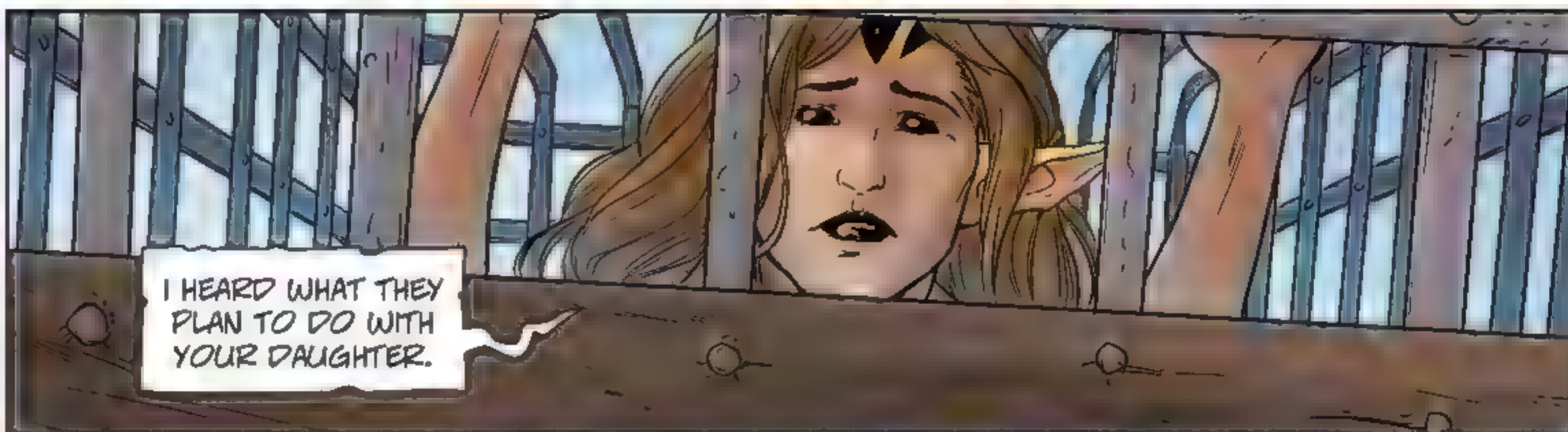
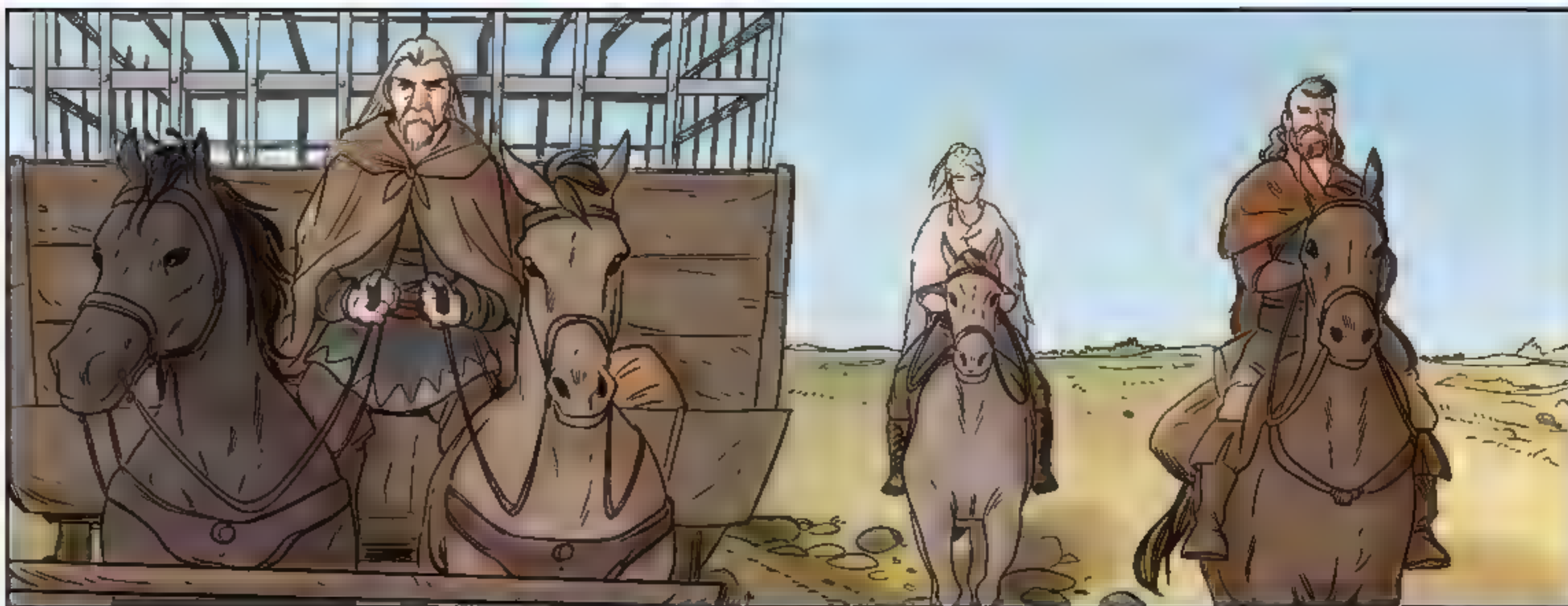


IT'S LATE, AND WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW. GO...

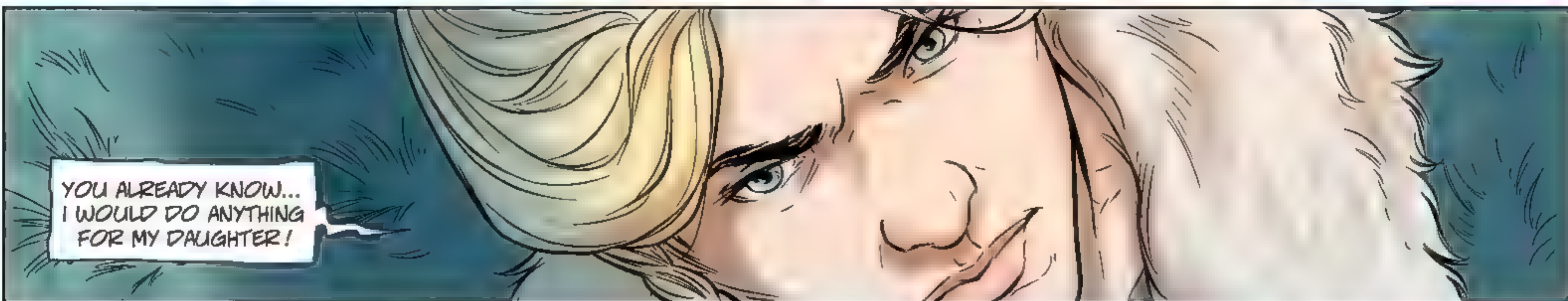
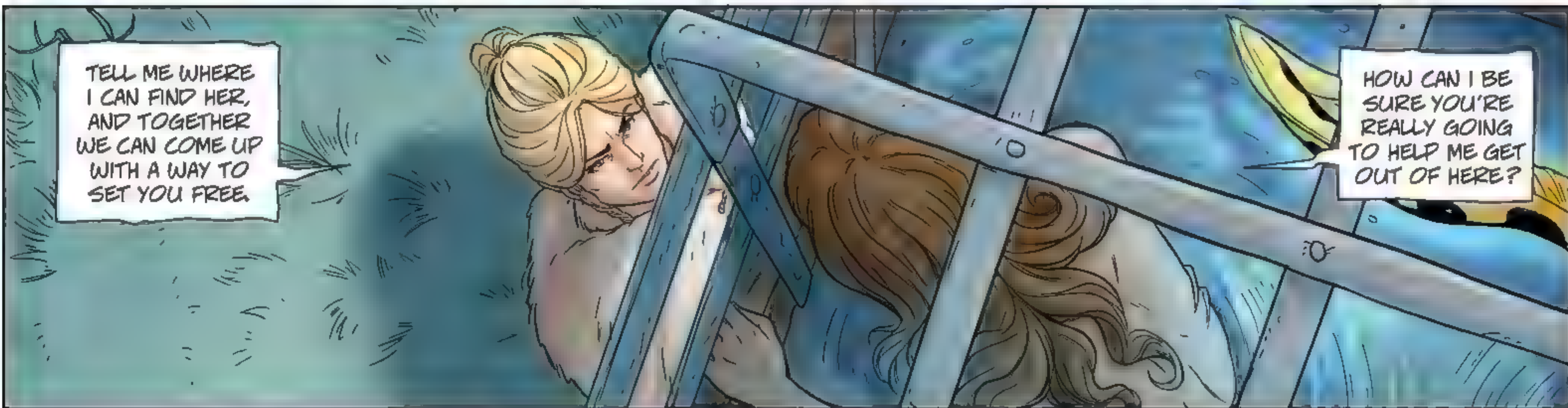
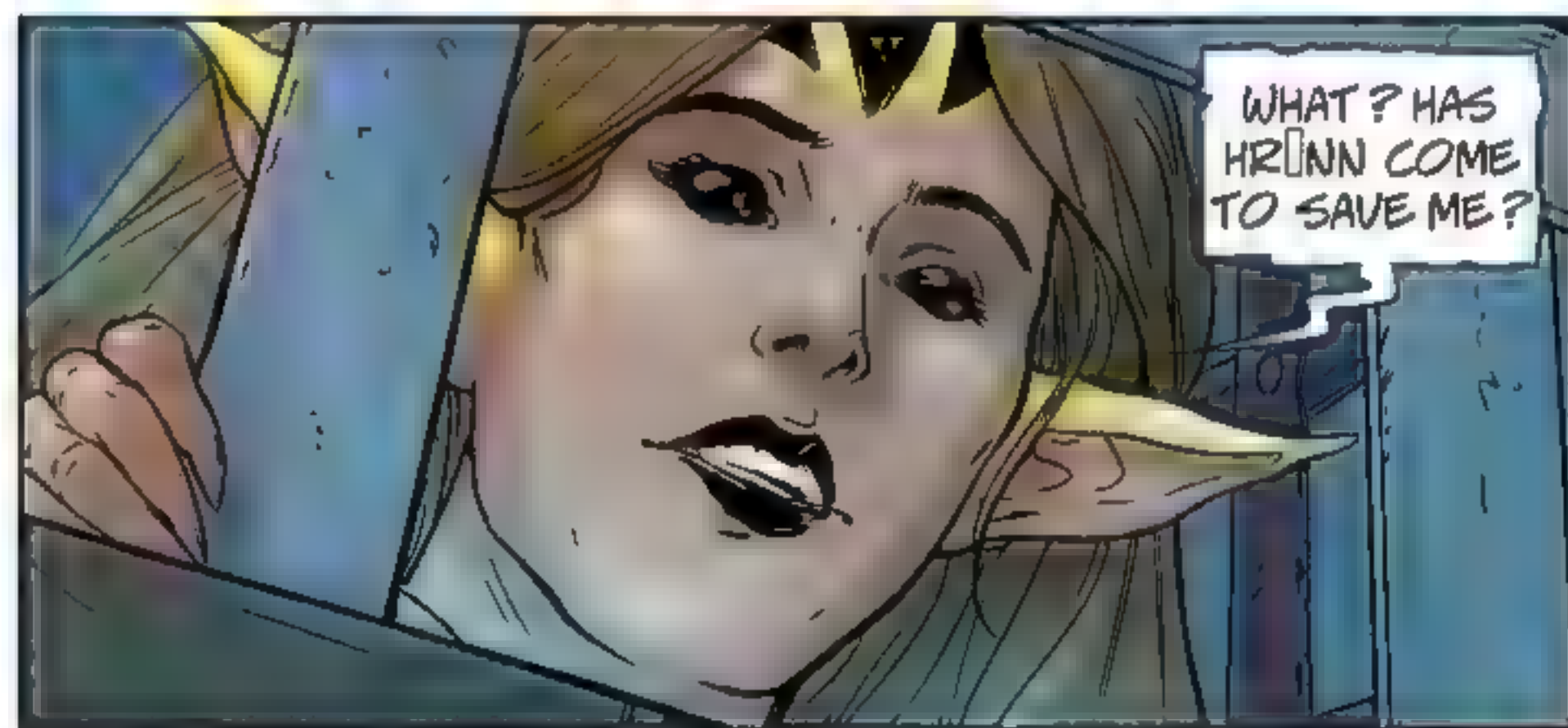
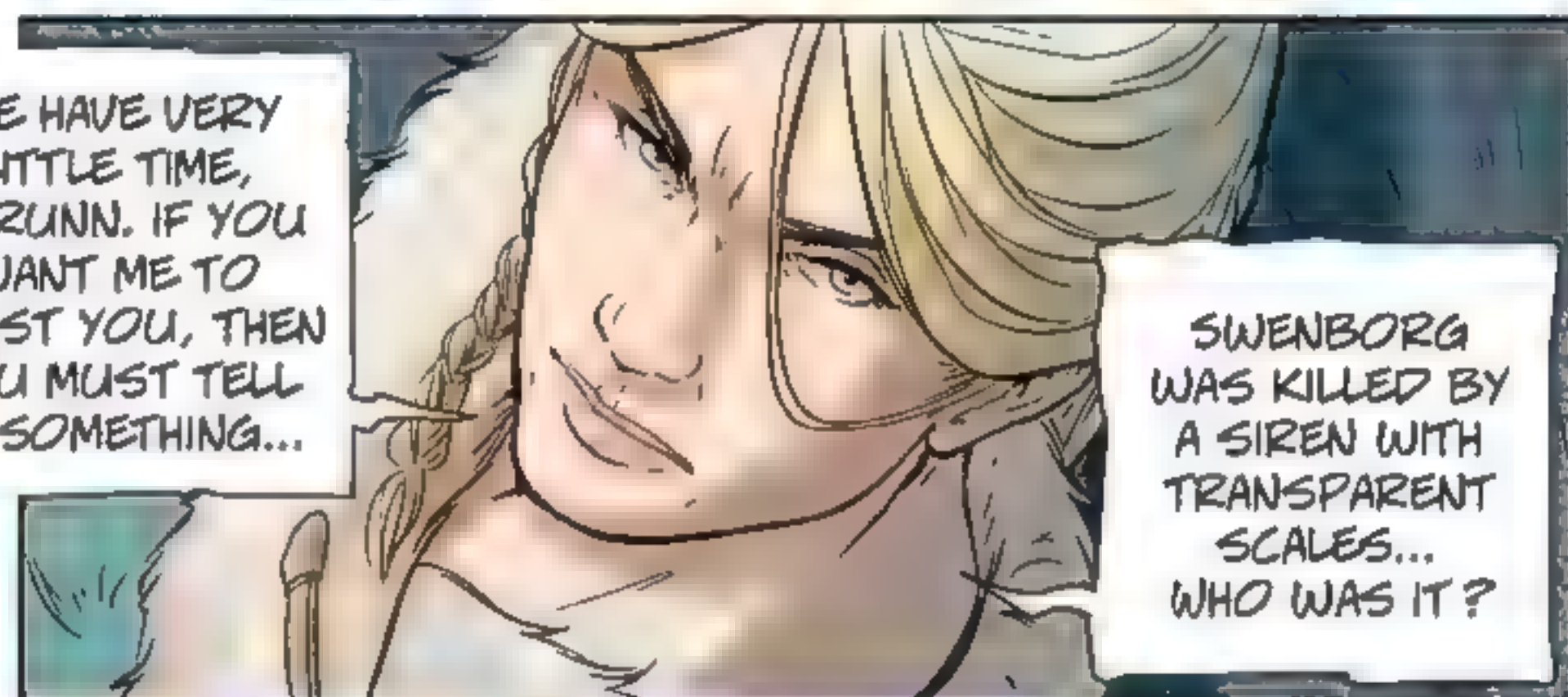
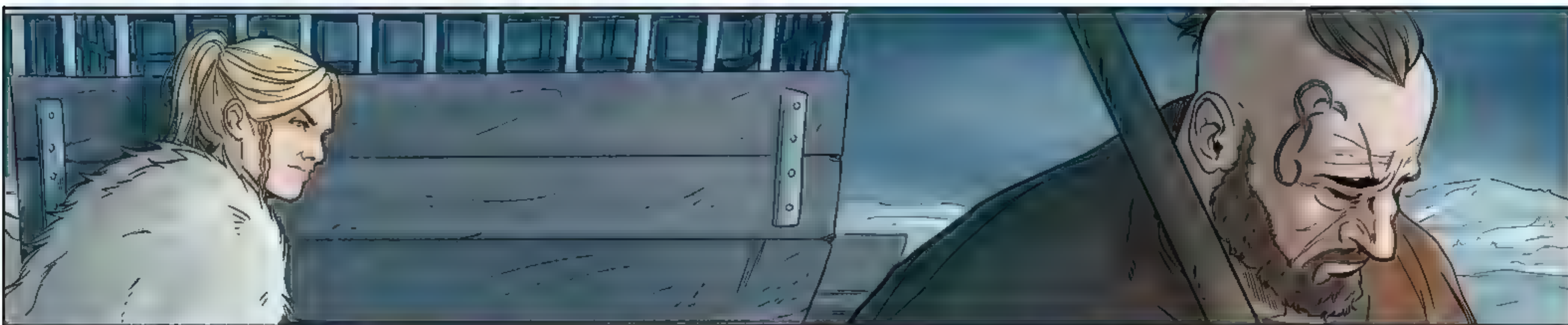




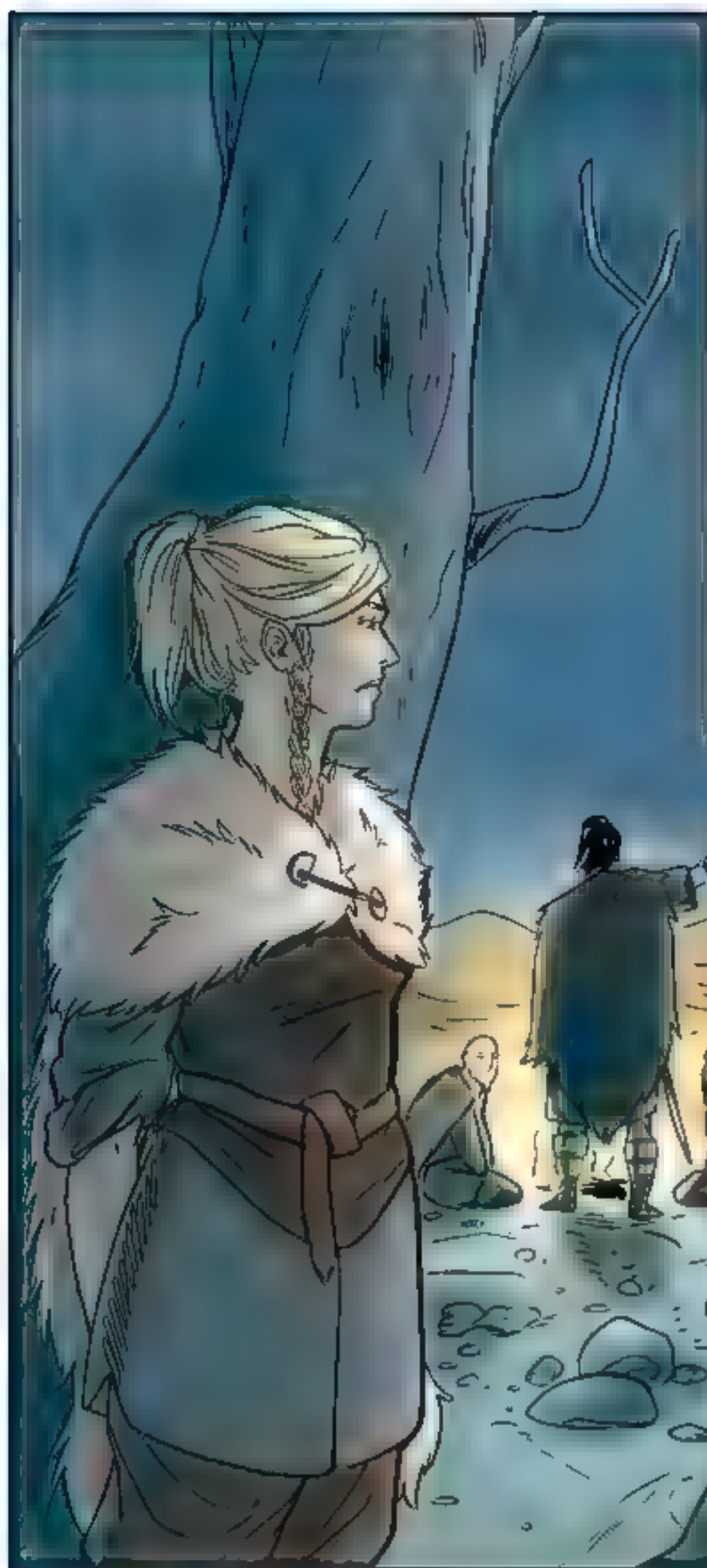




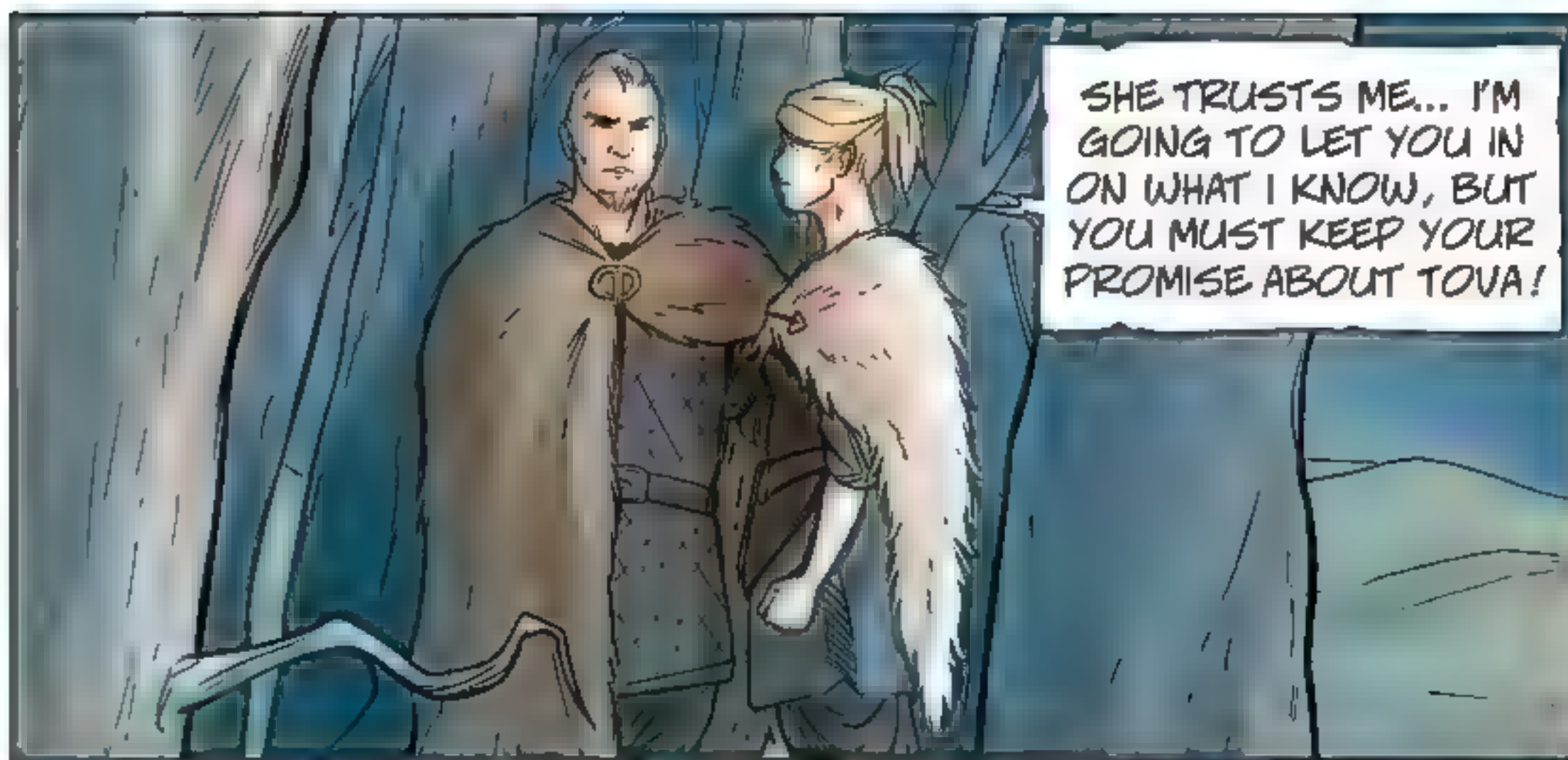








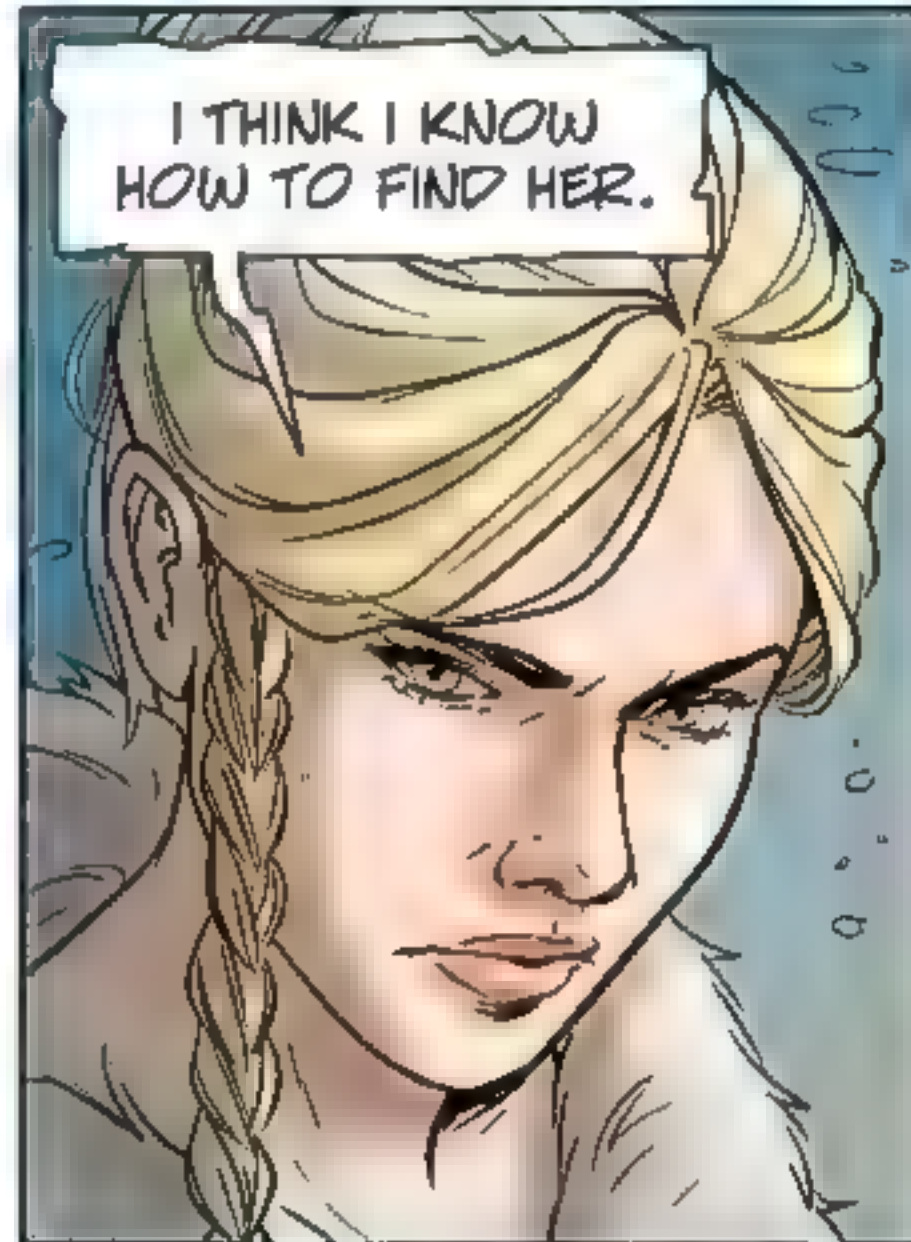
WELL? DID SHE TALK?



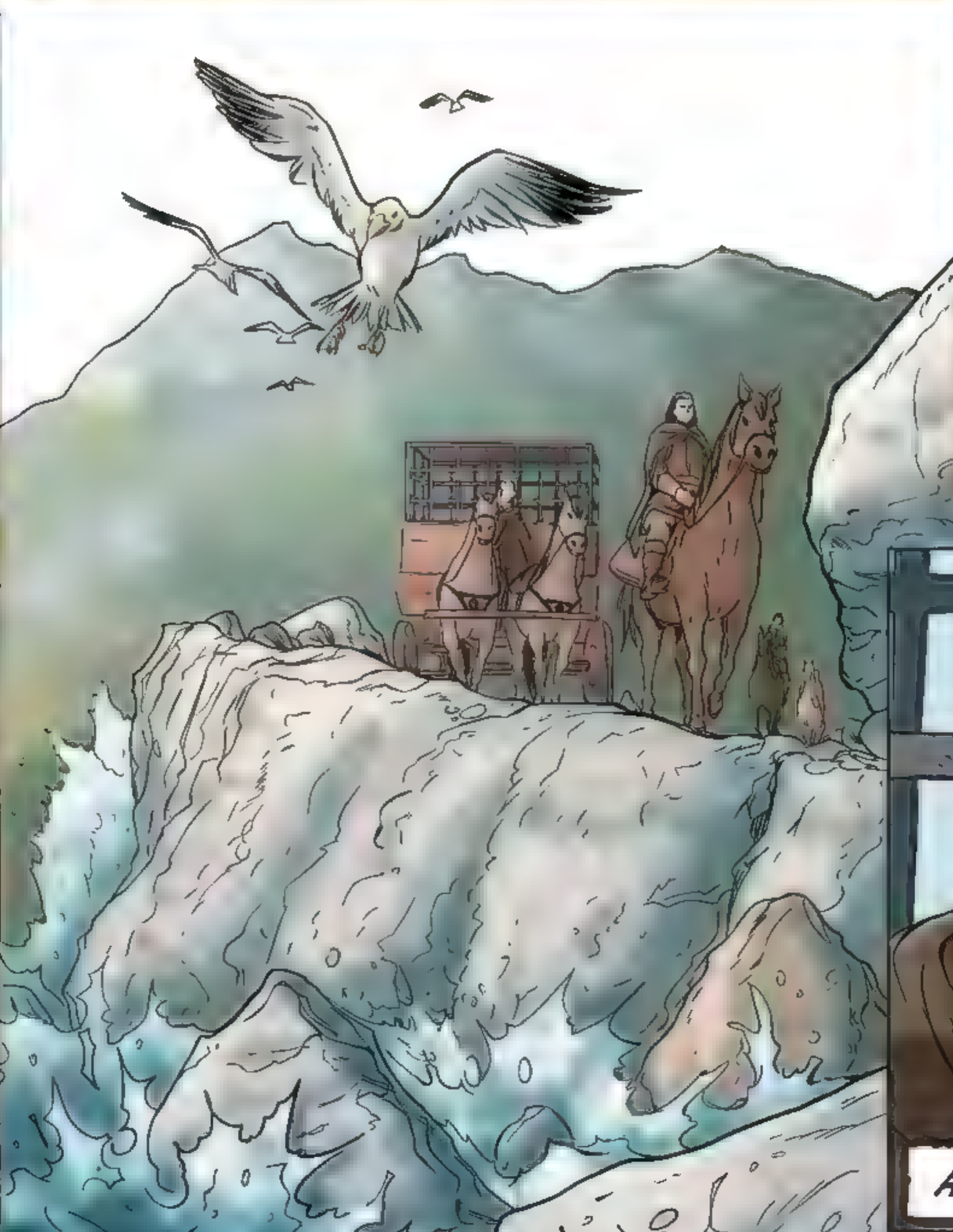
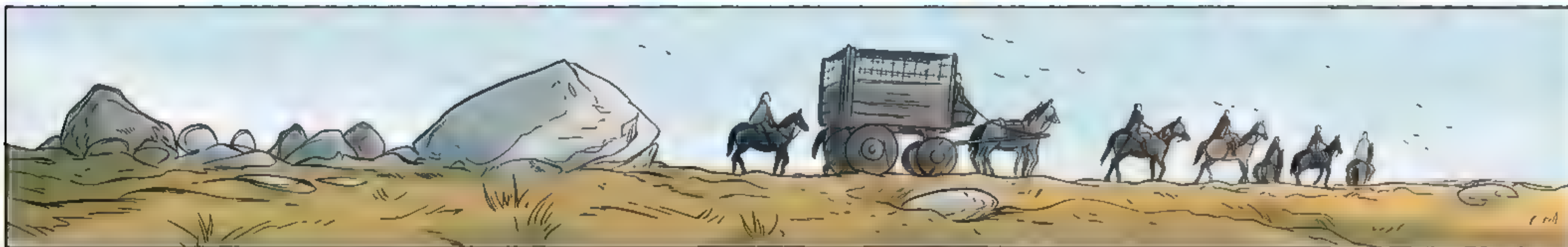
SHE TRUSTS ME... I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON WHAT I KNOW, BUT YOU MUST KEEP YOUR PROMISE ABOUT TOVA!



THAT IS OUR AGREEMENT, AND I AM NOT MY FATHER. THE DAY I GET MY HANDS ON THAT INVISIBLE SIREN, OR ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF HER CASTE, YOU'RE FREE TO GO BACK TO YOUR FISHING VILLAGE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.

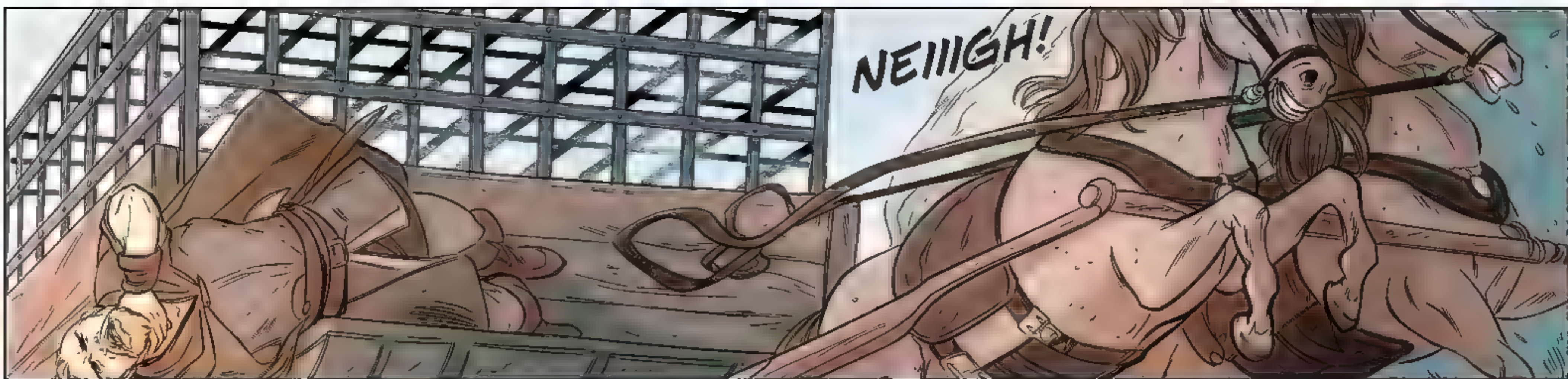


I THINK I KNOW HOW TO FIND HER.

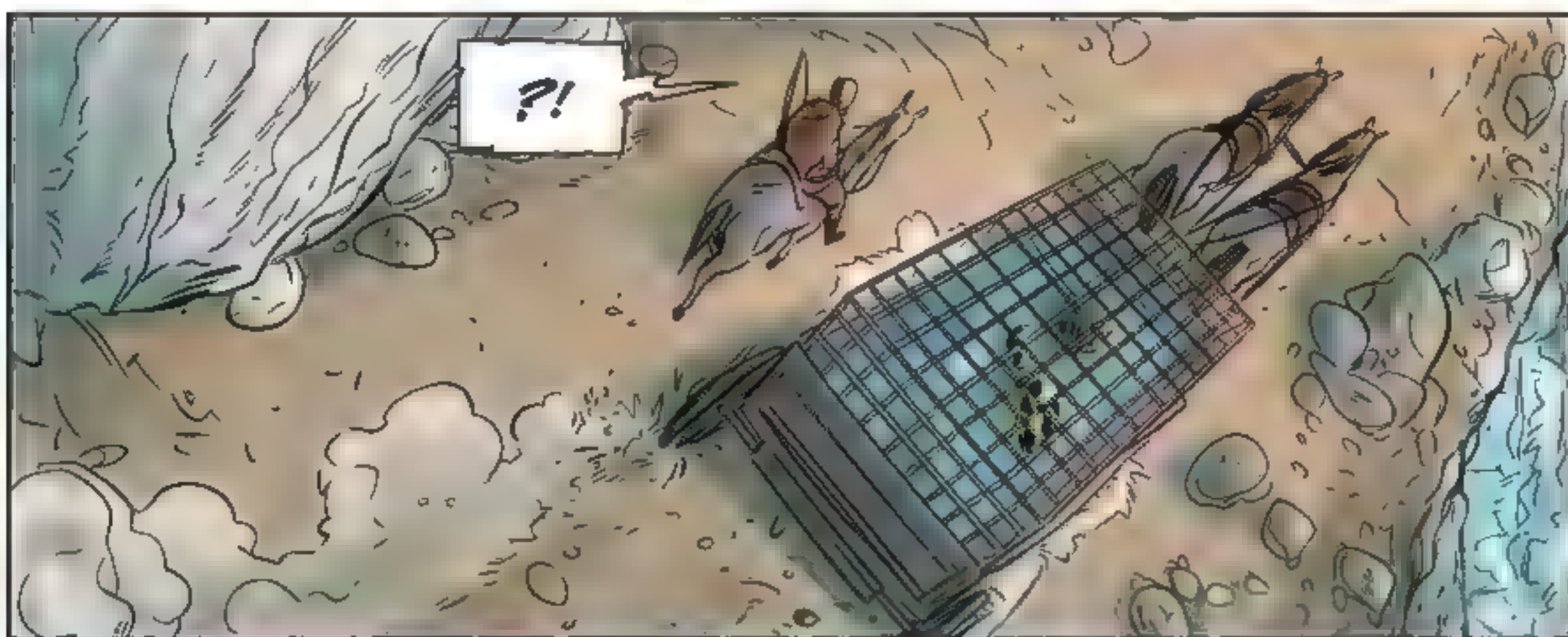


AAARG!

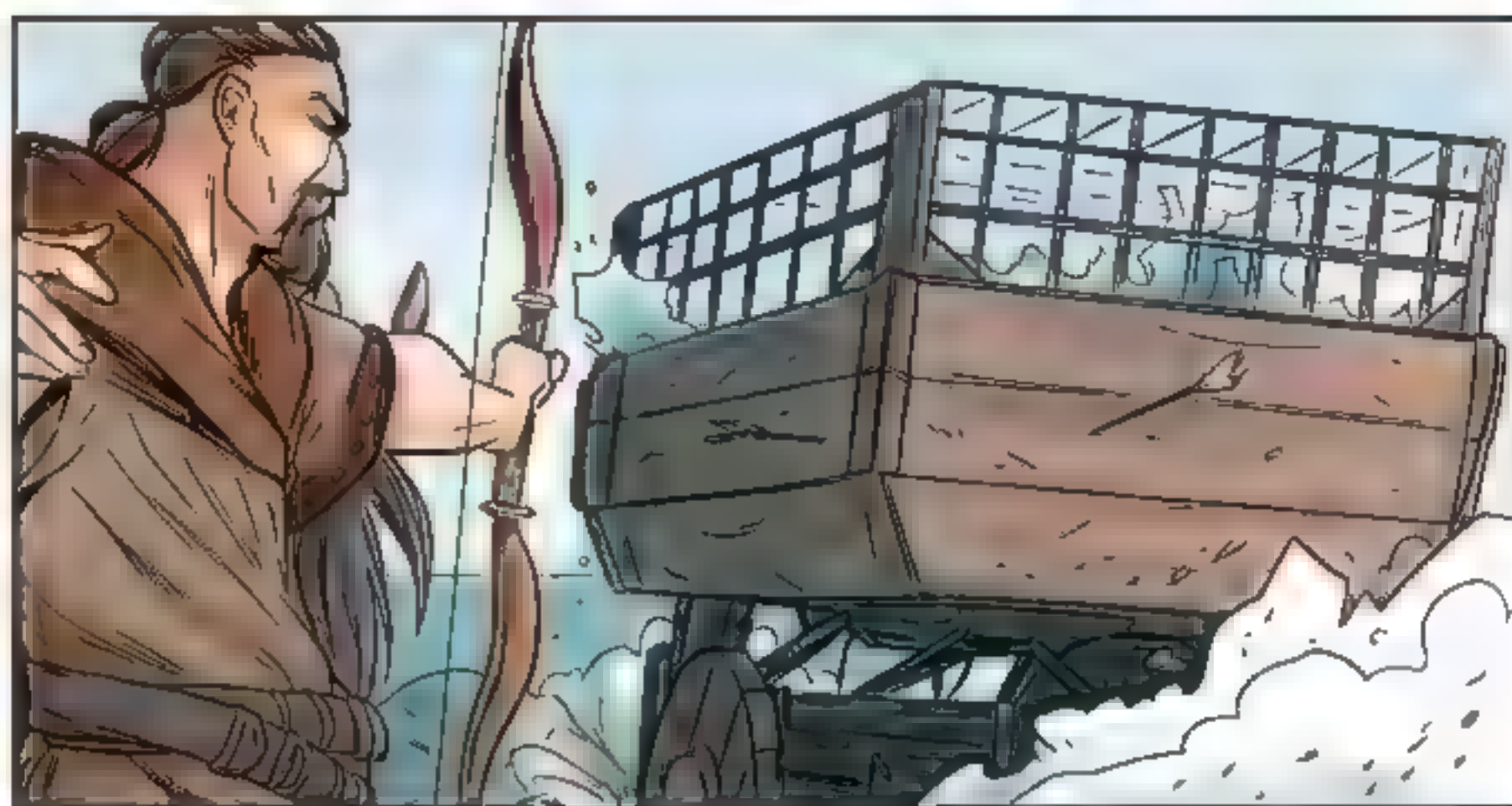




NEIGH!

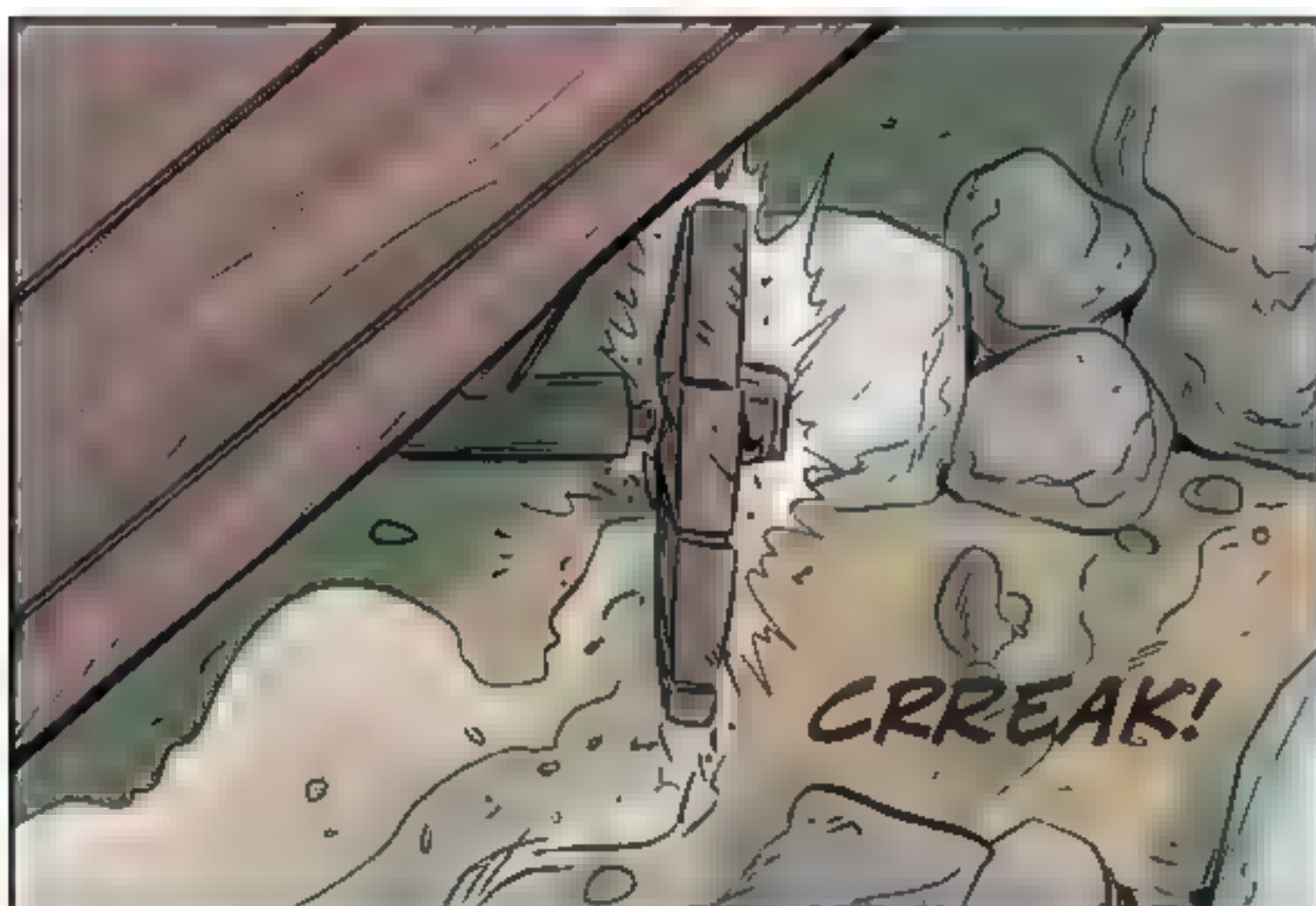


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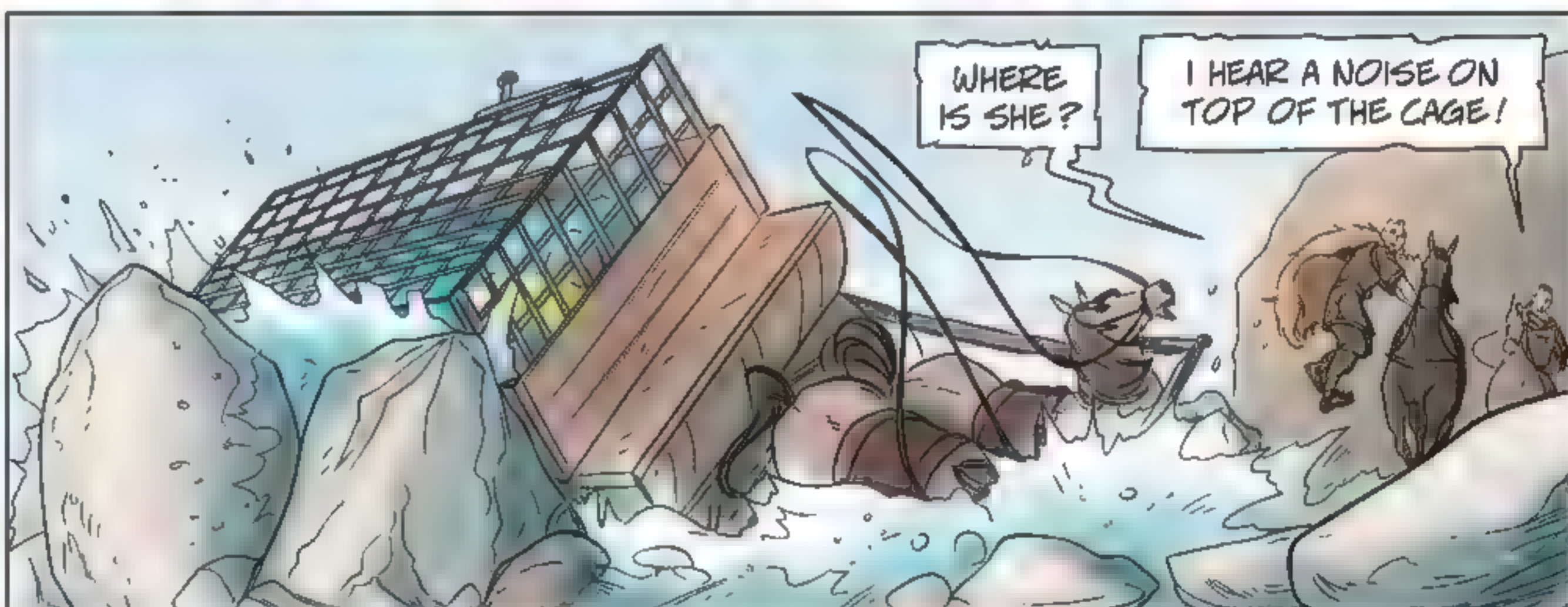


IT'S HRÖNN. SHE'LL COME OUT IF WE GET CLOSER TO THE SHORE...

STOP FIRING! I WANT HER ALIVE!

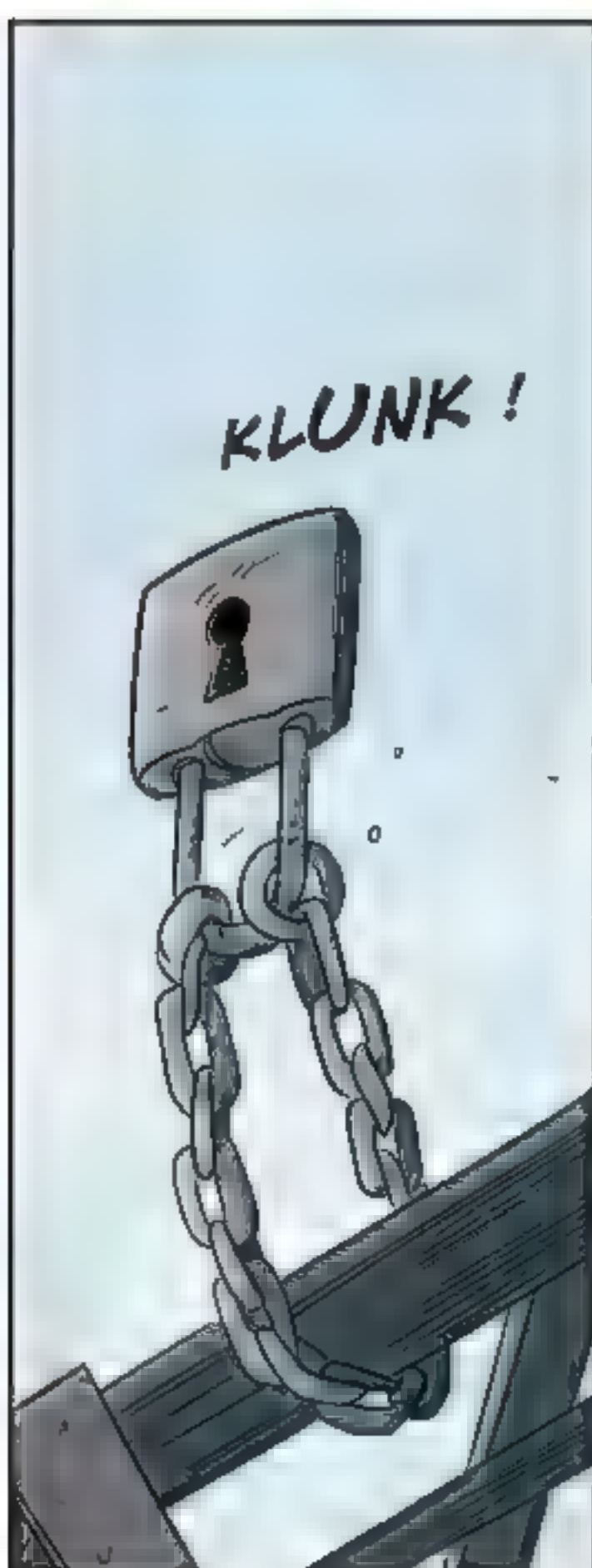


CRREAK!



WHERE IS SHE?

I HEAR A NOISE ON TOP OF THE CAGE!



KLUNK!

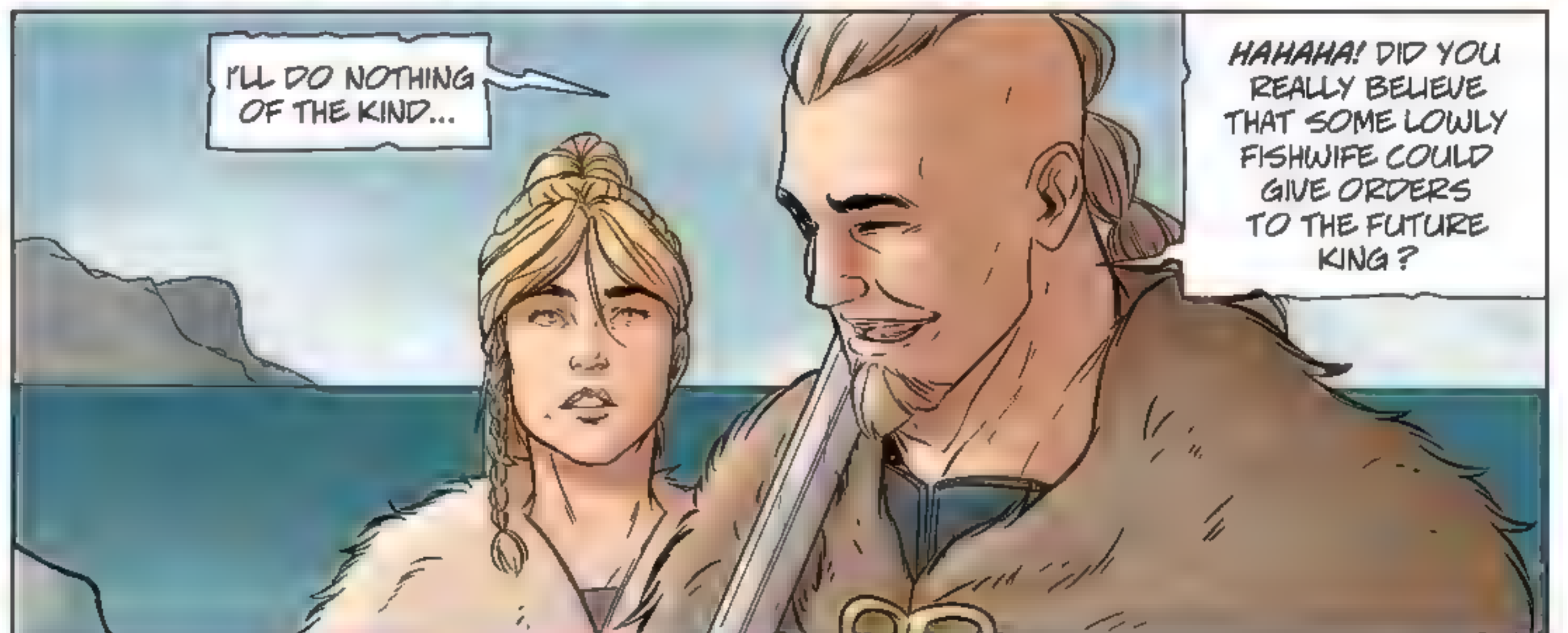
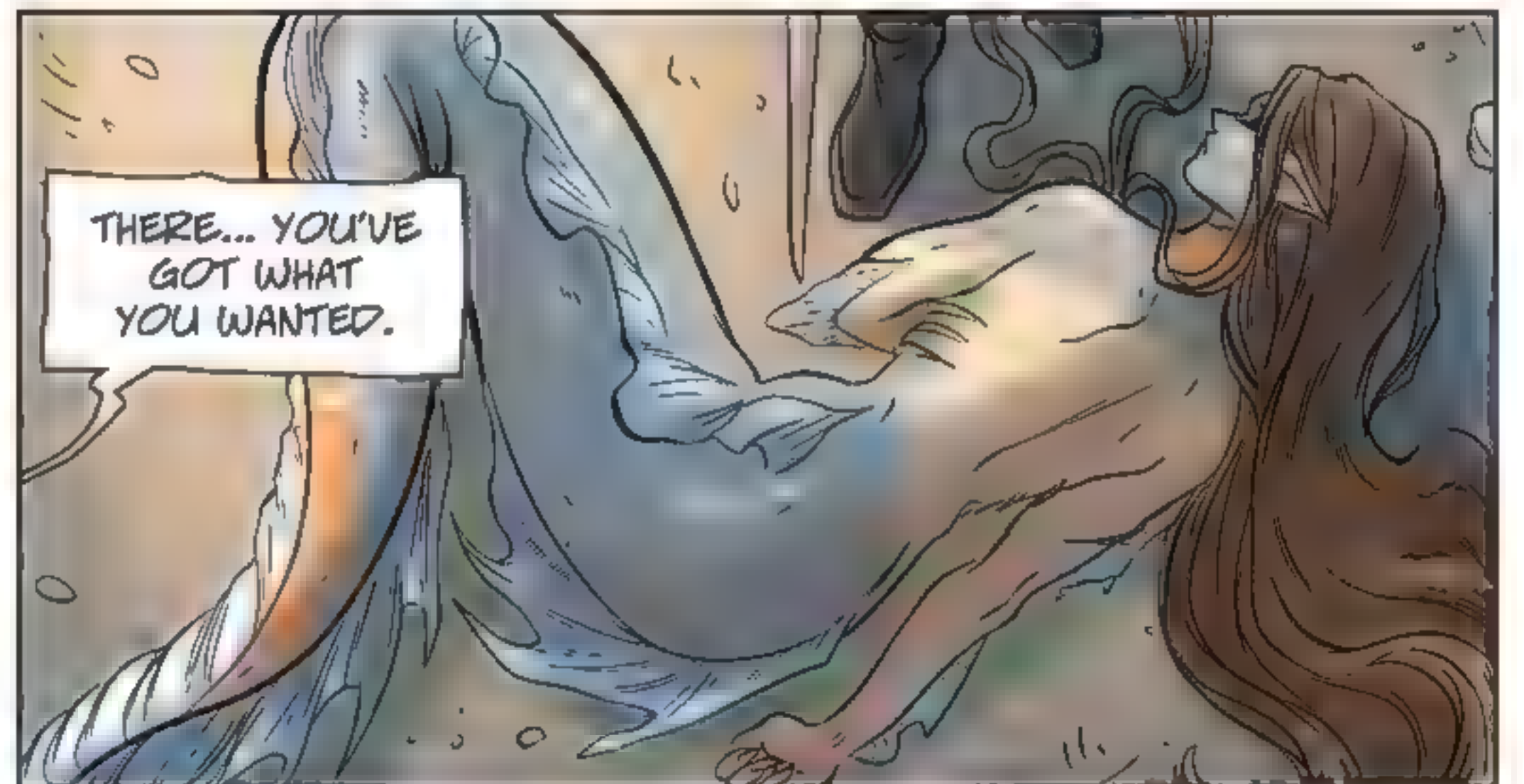
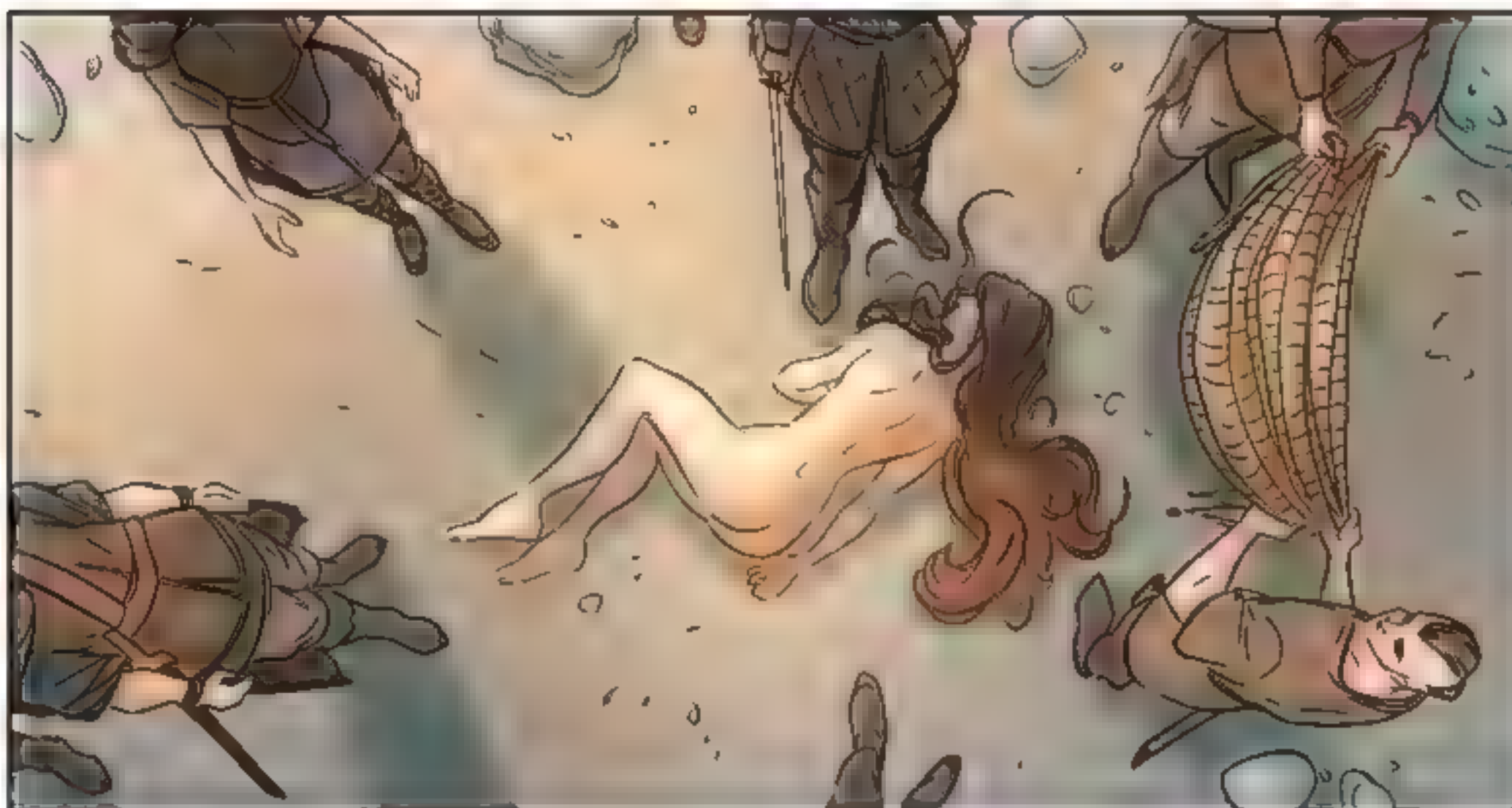
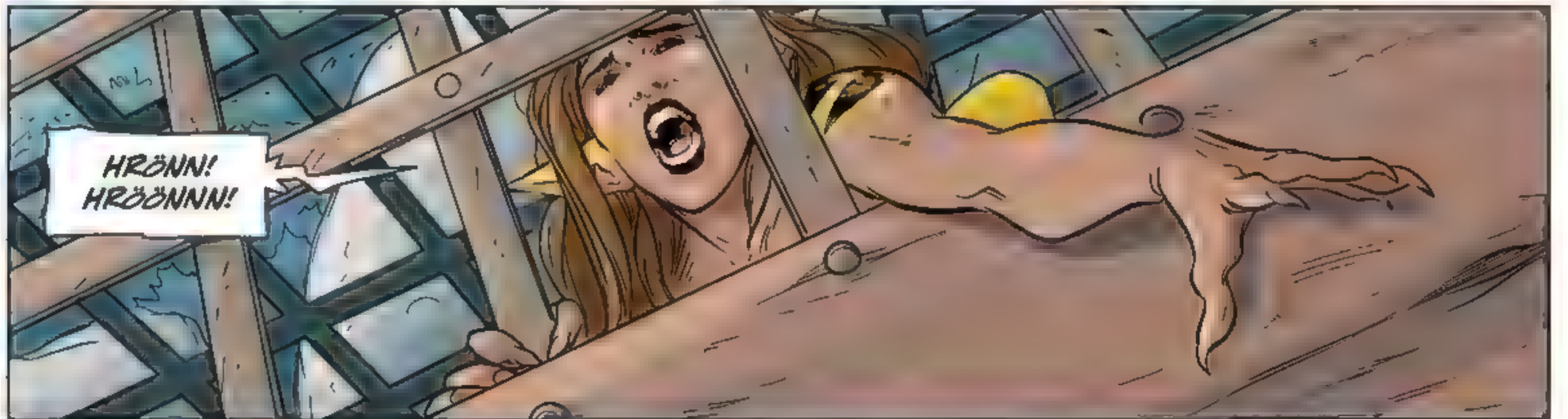
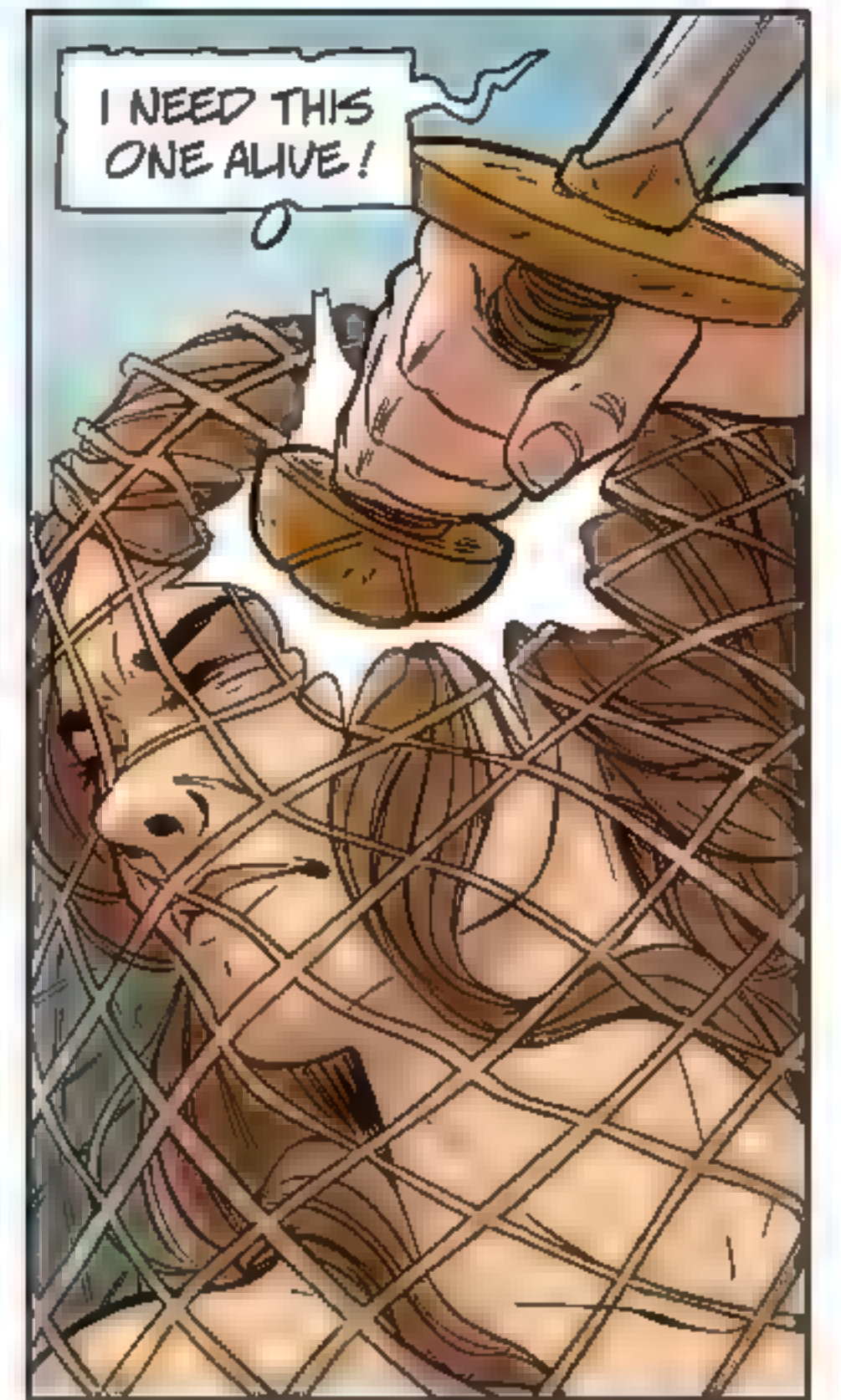
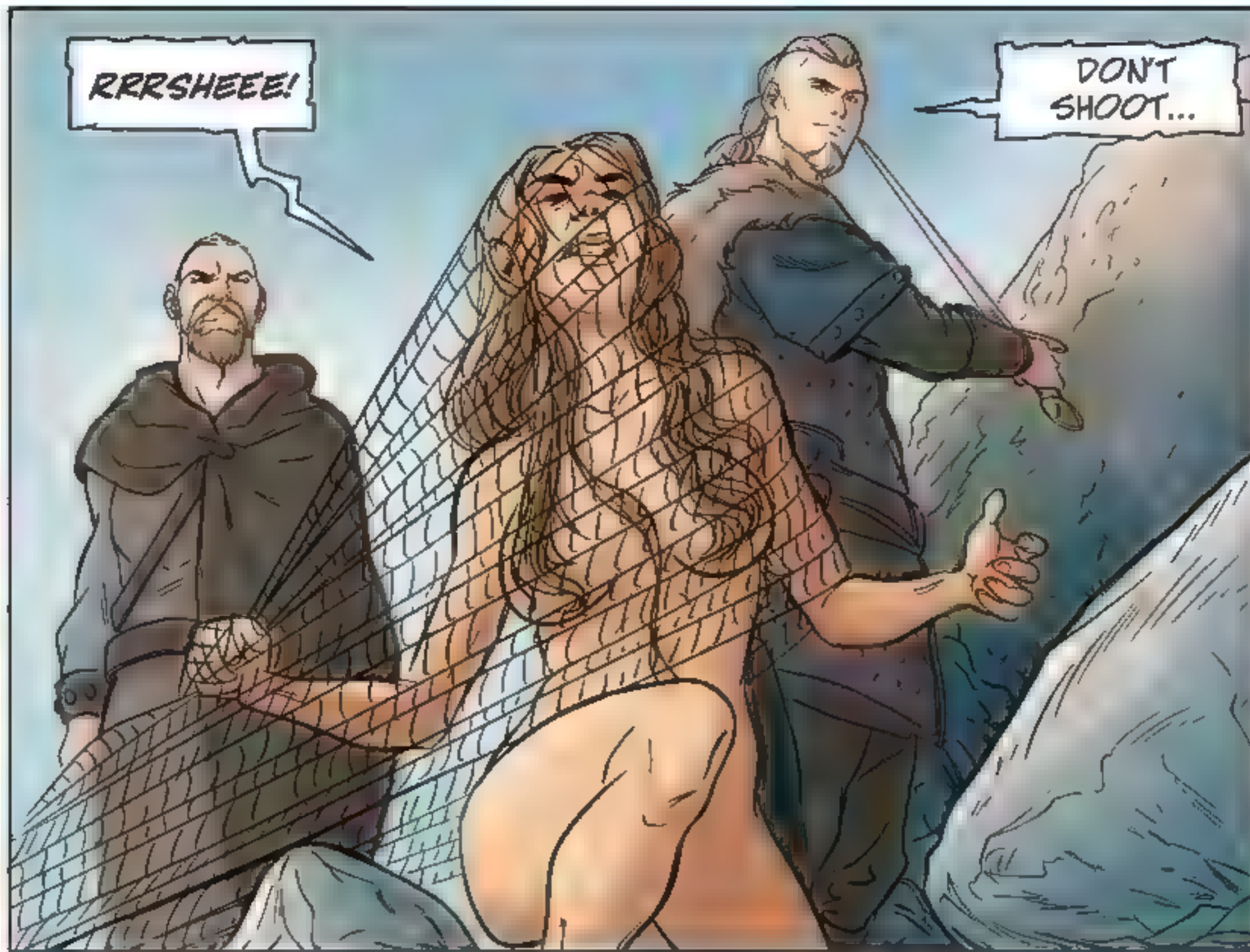
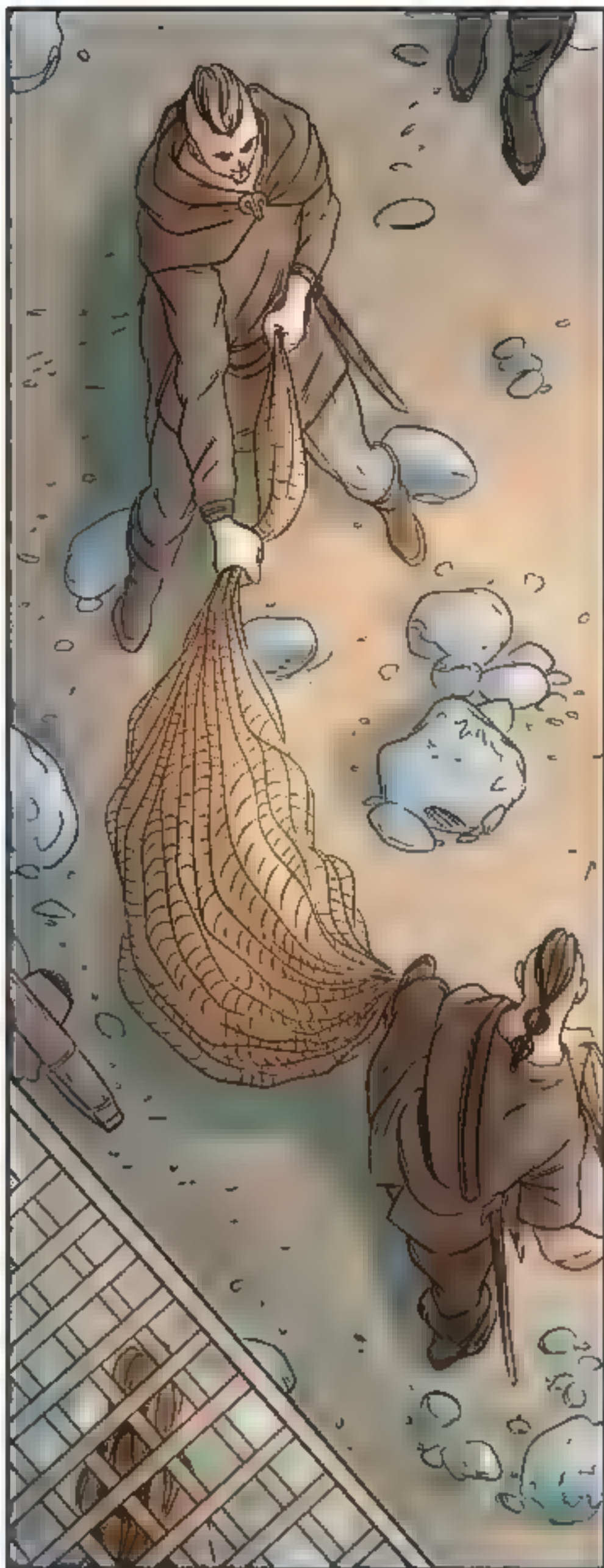


NOW!

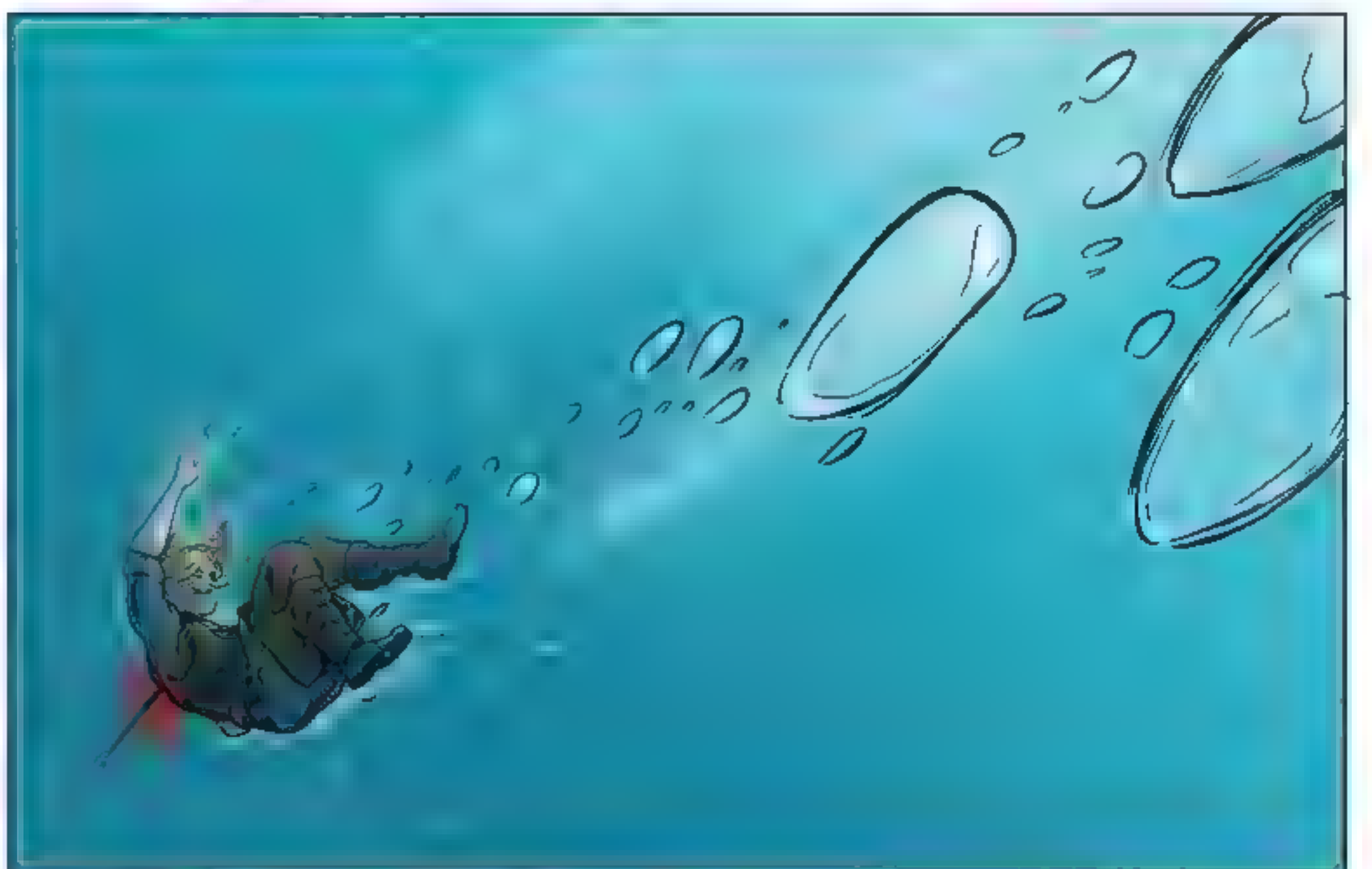
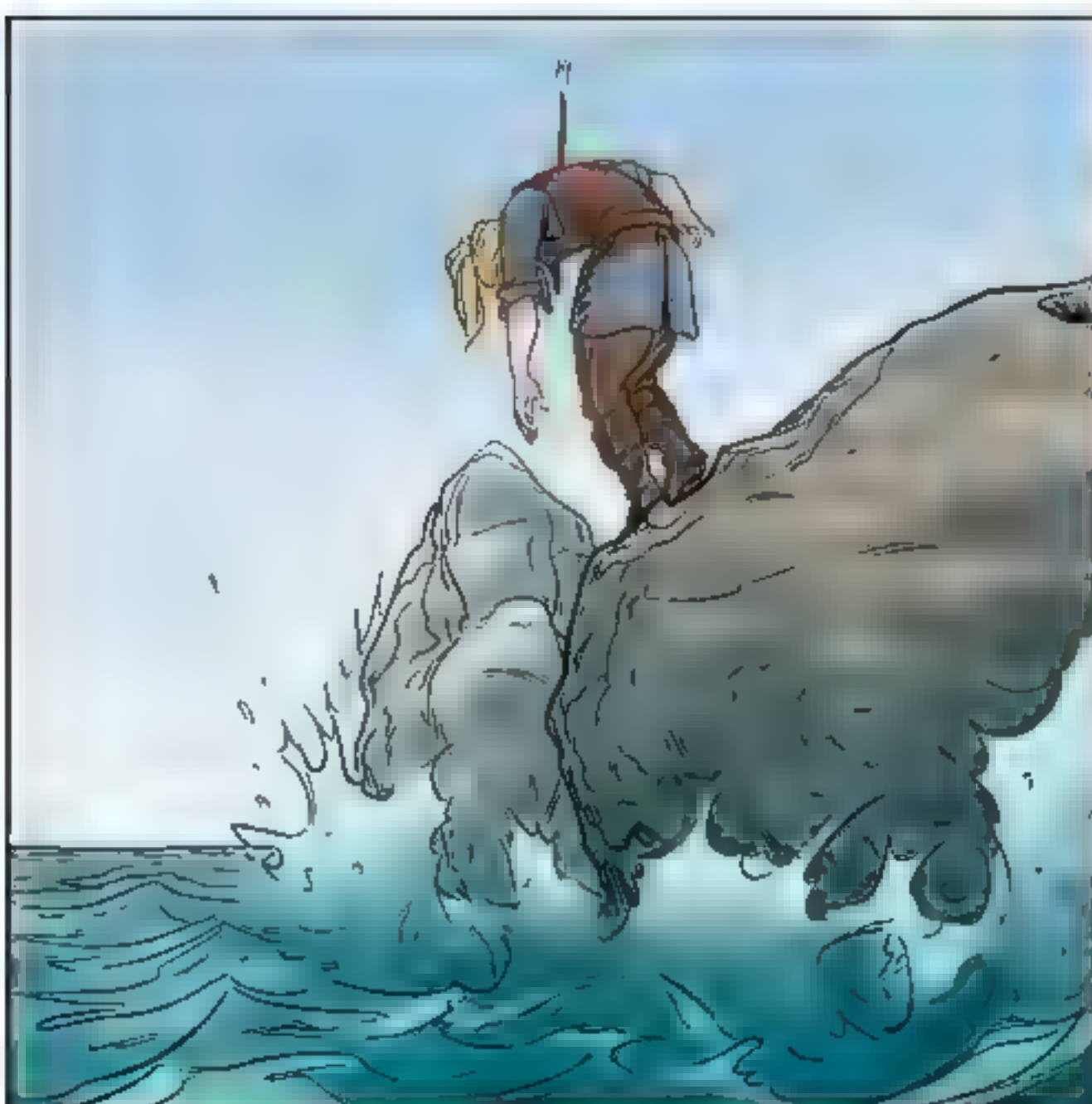
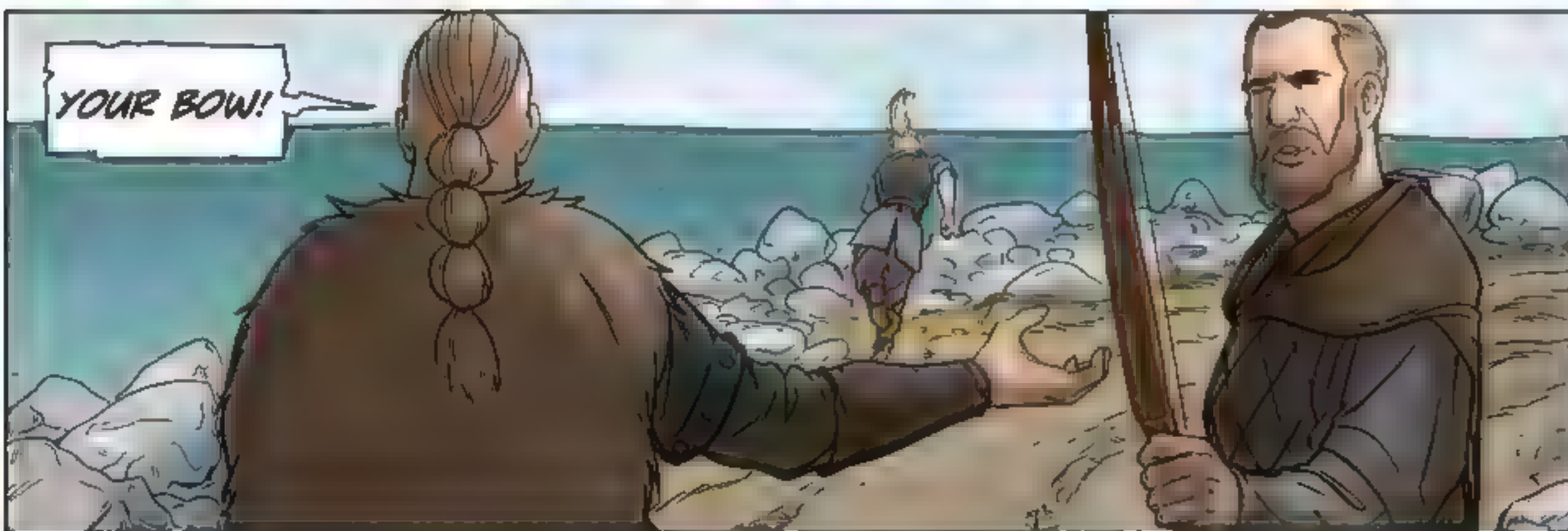
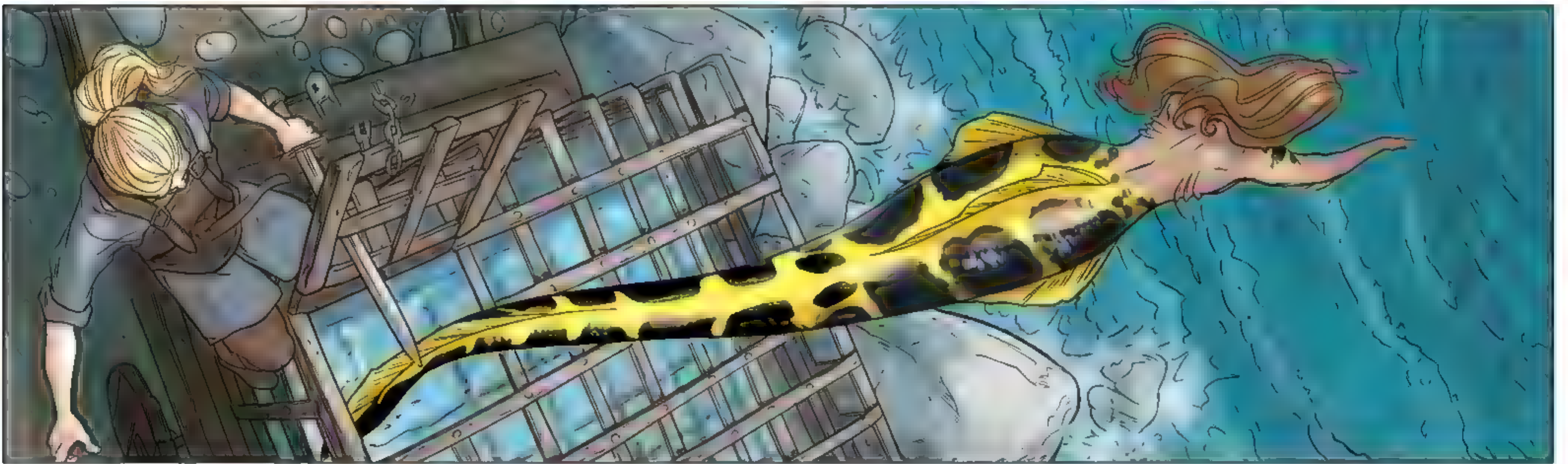
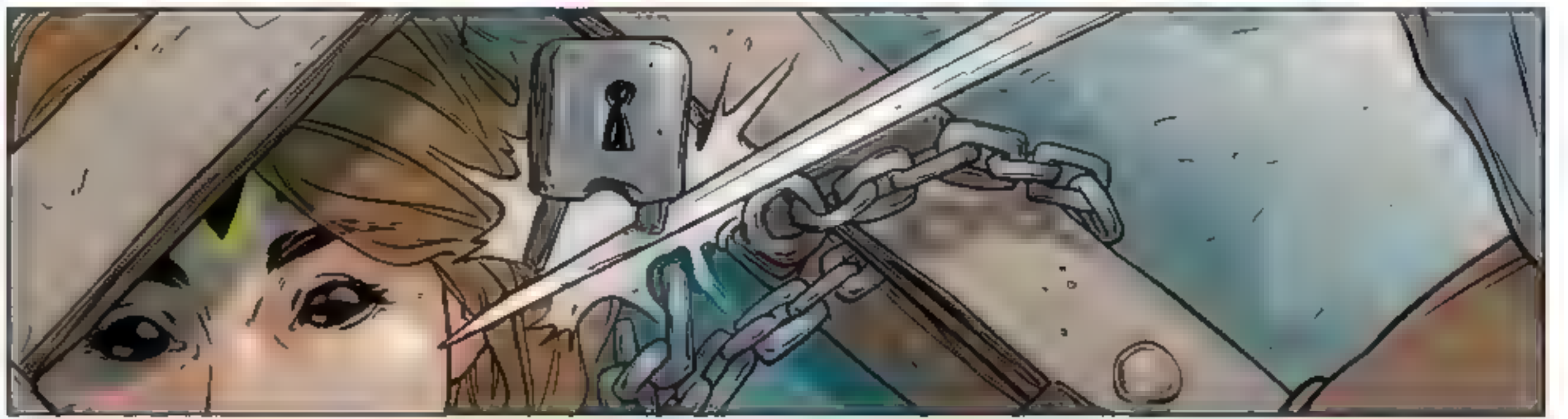


HRÖNN, GET AWAY! I'M BEGGING YOU!

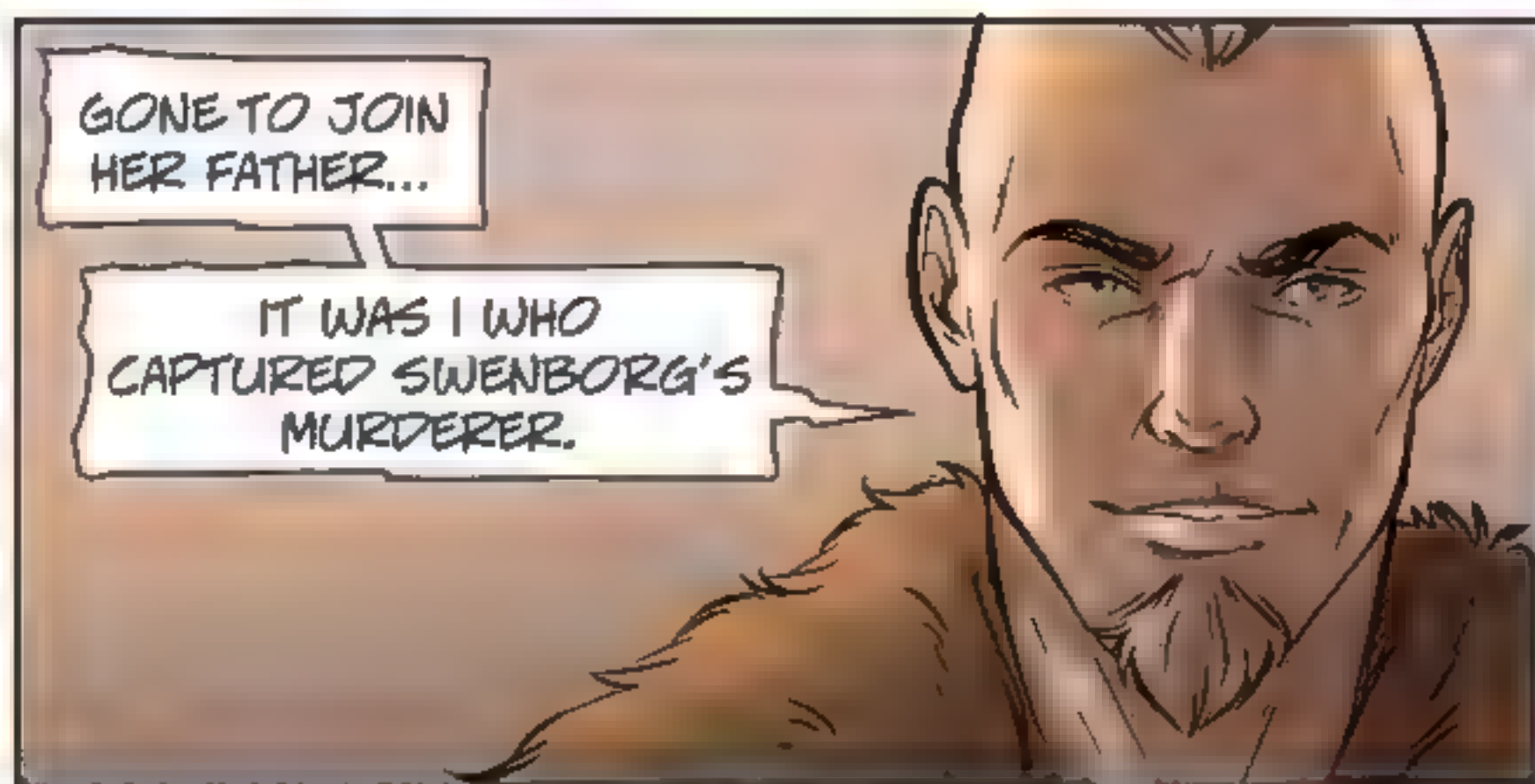




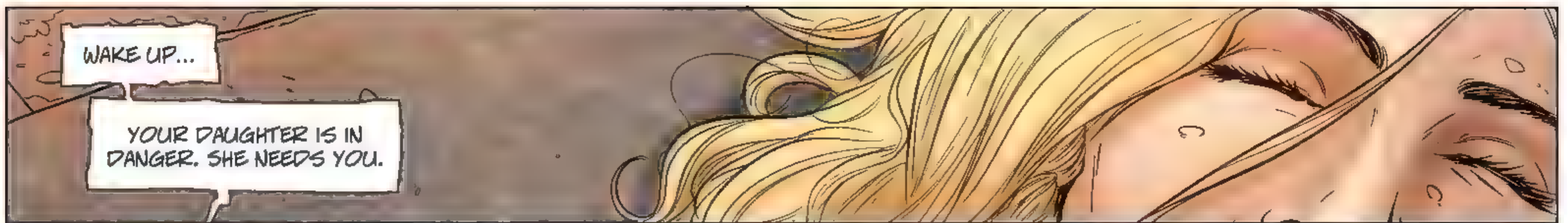






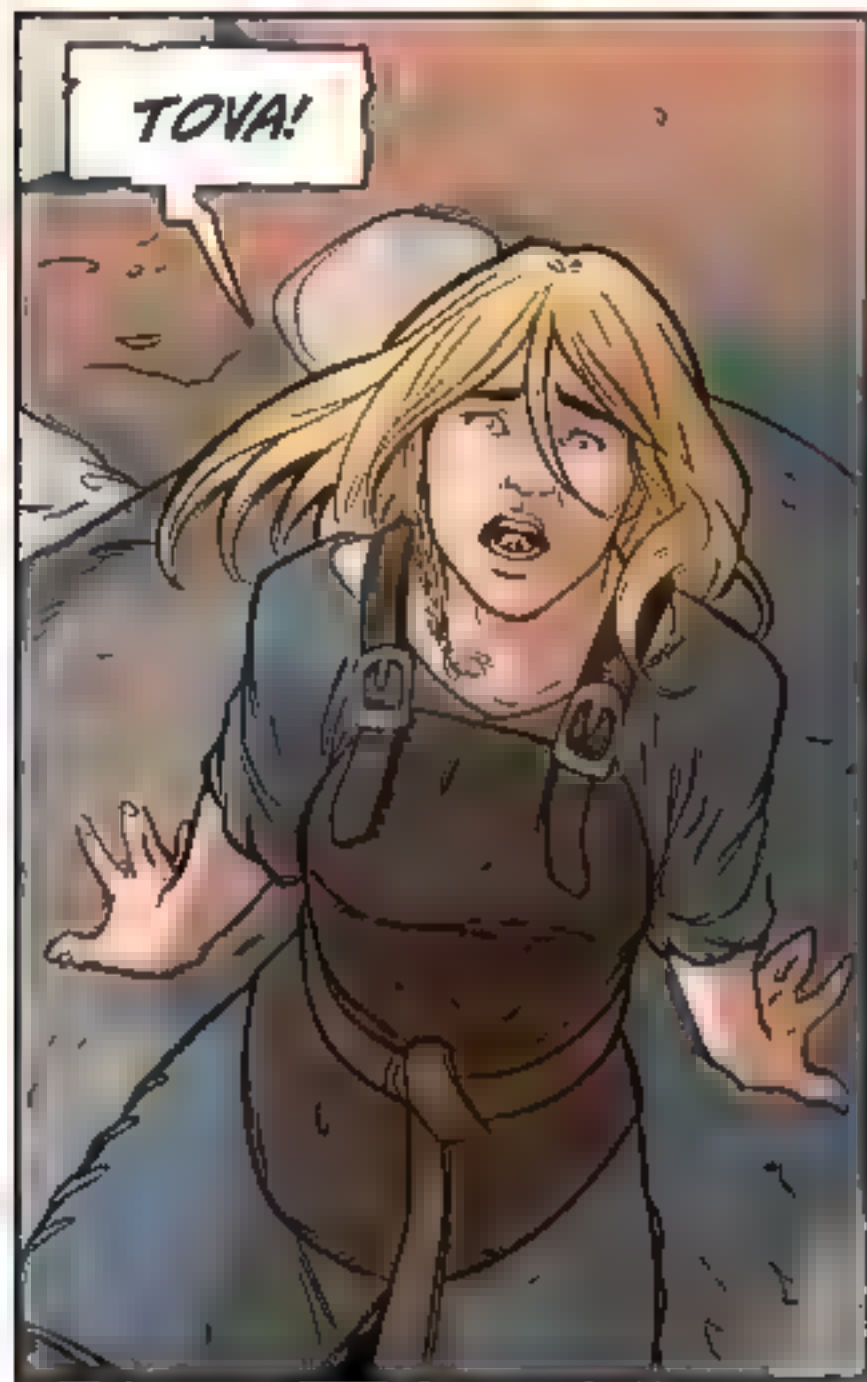




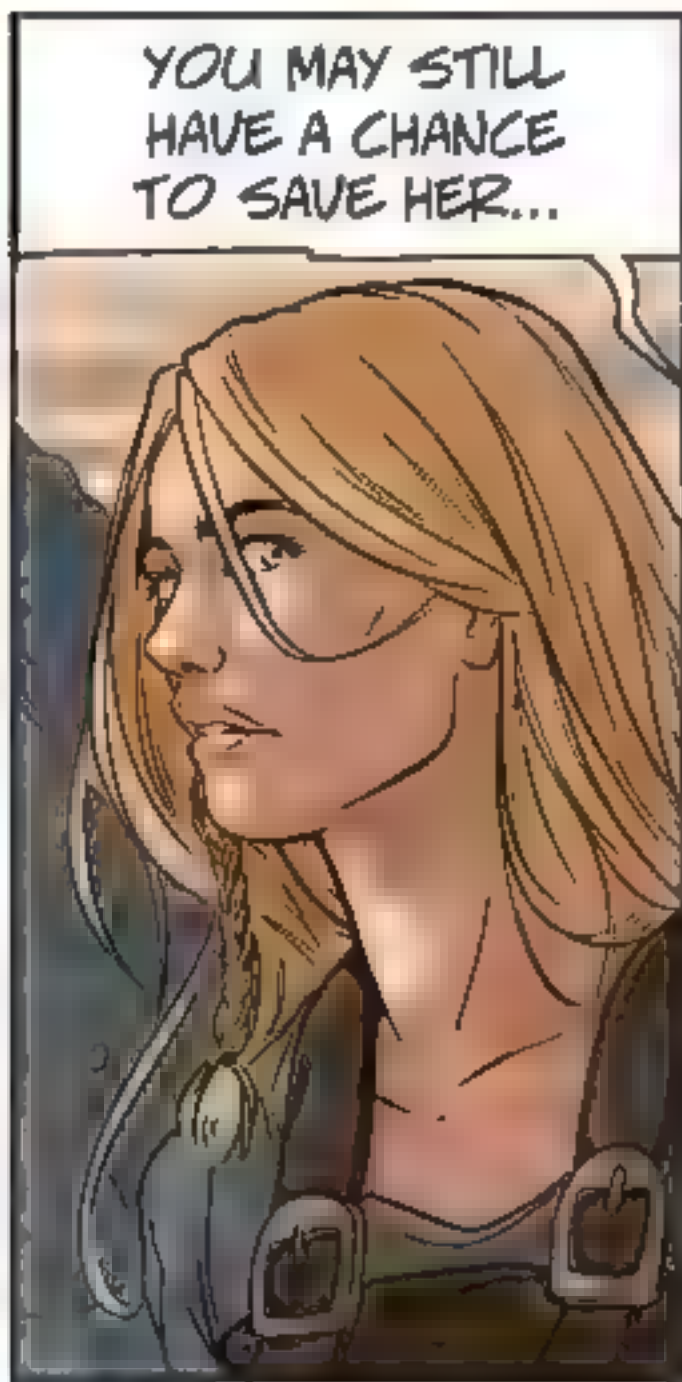


WAKE UP...

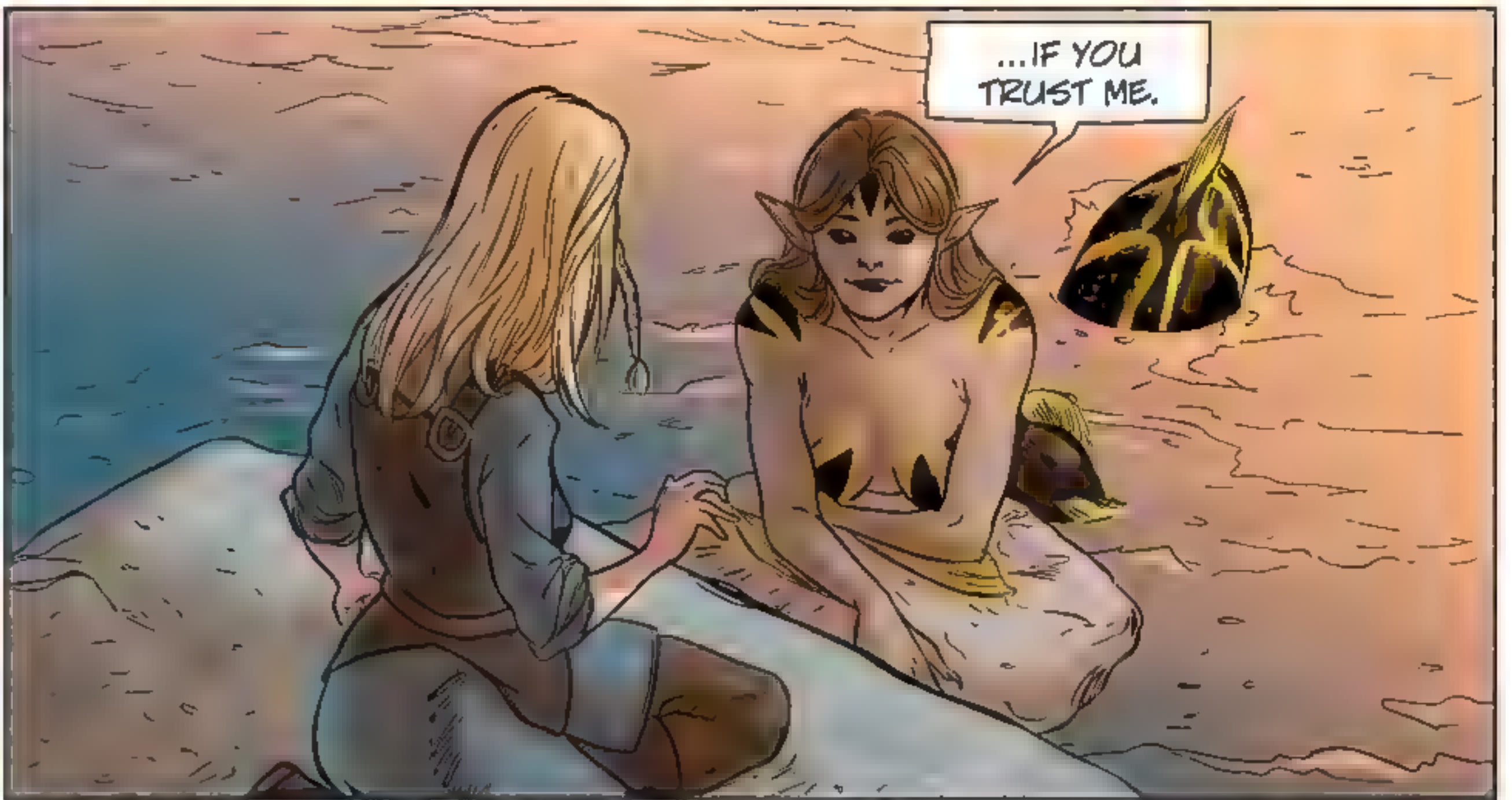
YOUR DAUGHTER IS IN DANGER. SHE NEEDS YOU.



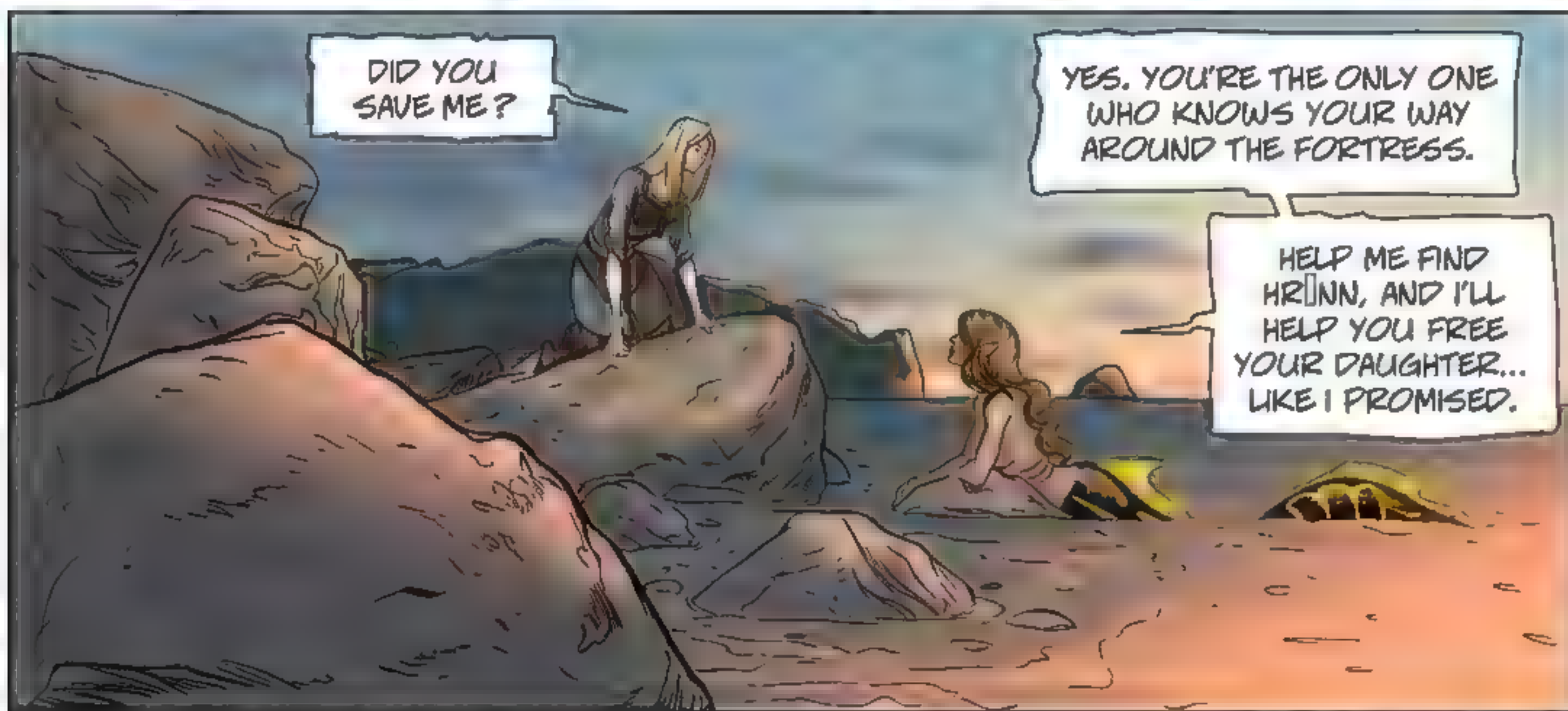
TOVA!



YOU MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE HER...



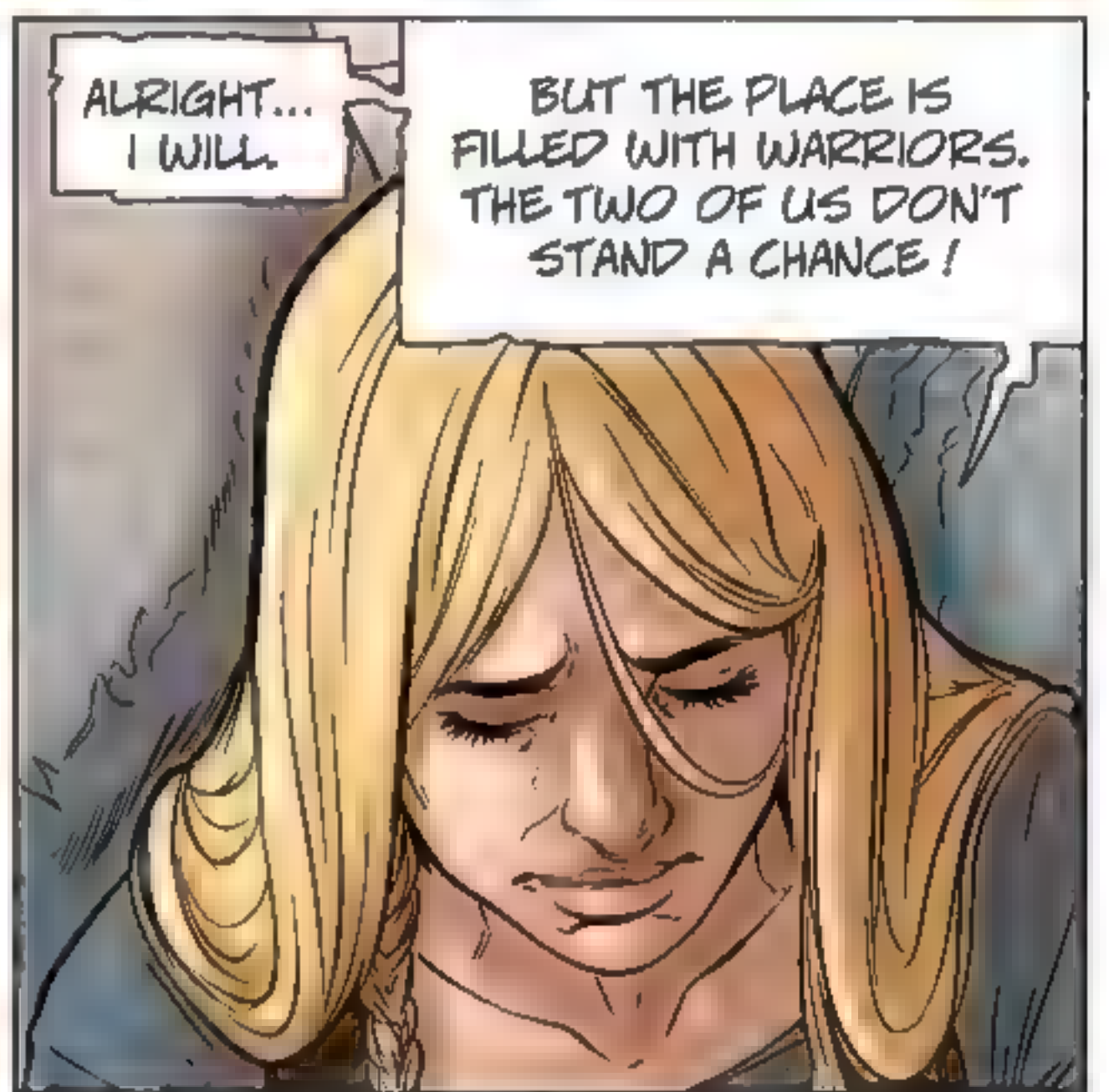
...IF YOU TRUST ME.



DID YOU SAVE ME?

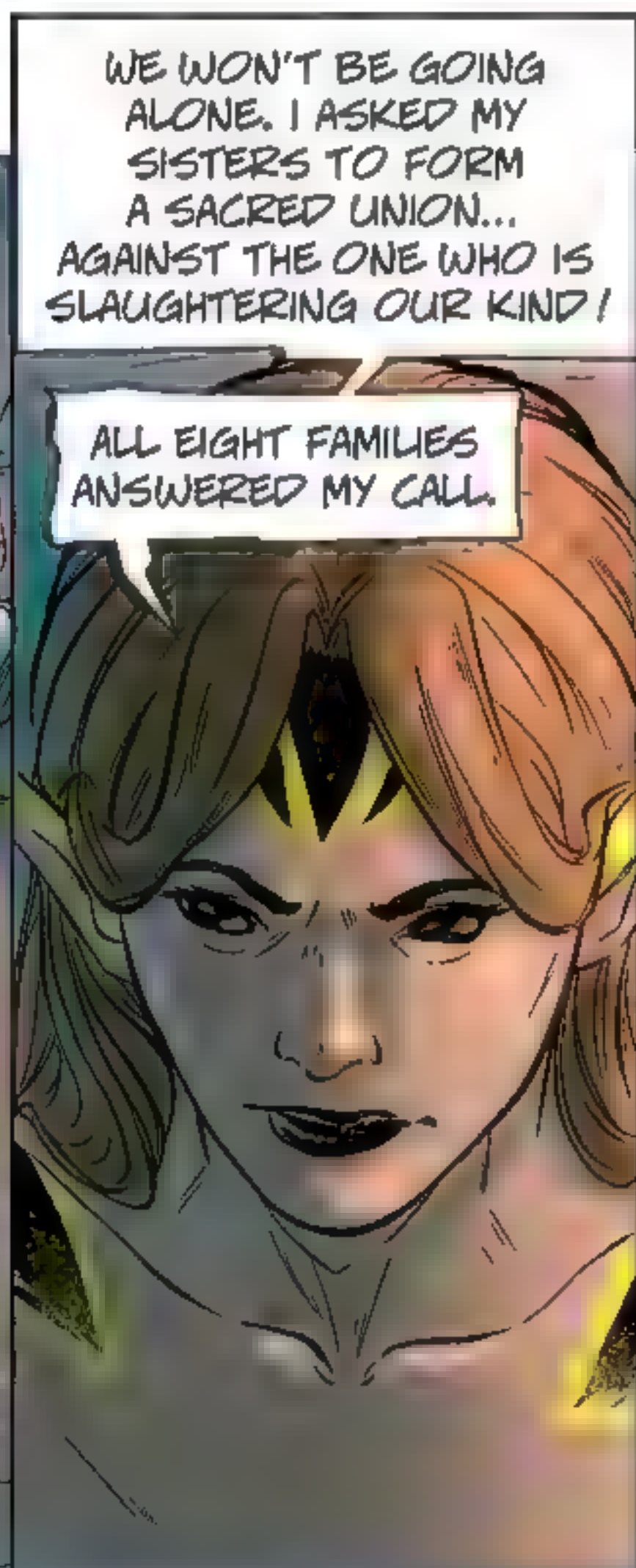
YES. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS YOUR WAY AROUND THE FORTRESS.

HELP ME FIND HRINN, AND I'LL HELP YOU FREE YOUR DAUGHTER... LIKE I PROMISED.



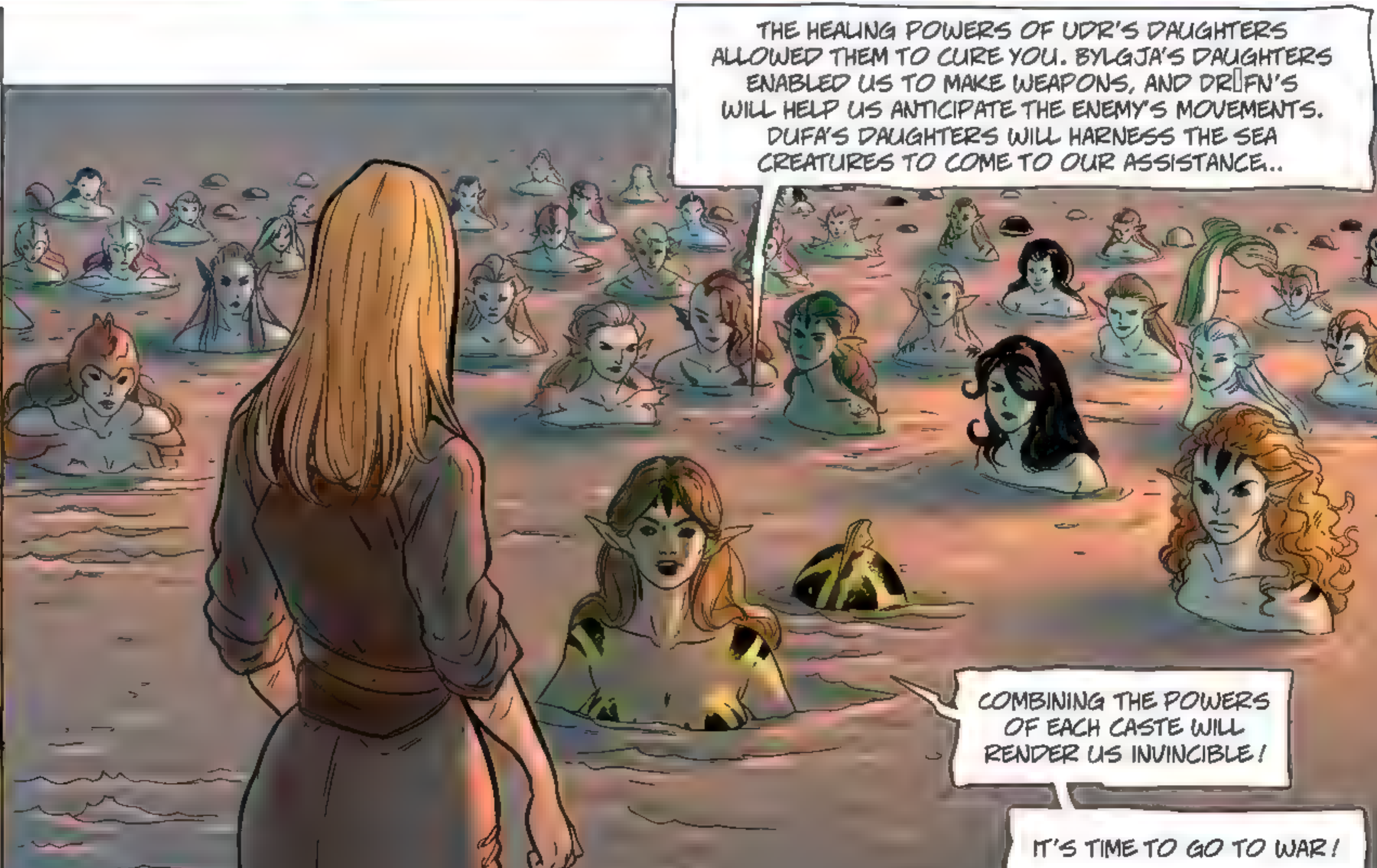
ALRIGHT... I WILL.

BUT THE PLACE IS FILLED WITH WARRIORS. THE TWO OF US DON'T STAND A CHANCE!



WE WON'T BE GOING ALONE. I ASKED MY SISTERS TO FORM A SACRED UNION... AGAINST THE ONE WHO IS SLAUGHTERING OUR KIND!

ALL EIGHT FAMILIES ANSWERED MY CALL.



THE HEALING POWERS OF UDR'S DAUGHTERS ALLOWED THEM TO CURE YOU. BYLGJA'S DAUGHTERS ENABLED US TO MAKE WEAPONS, AND DRIFN'S WILL HELP US ANTICIPATE THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS. DUFJA'S DAUGHTERS WILL HARNESS THE SEA CREATURES TO COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE..

COMBINING THE POWERS OF EACH CASTE WILL RENDER US INVINCIBLE!

IT'S TIME TO GO TO WAR!

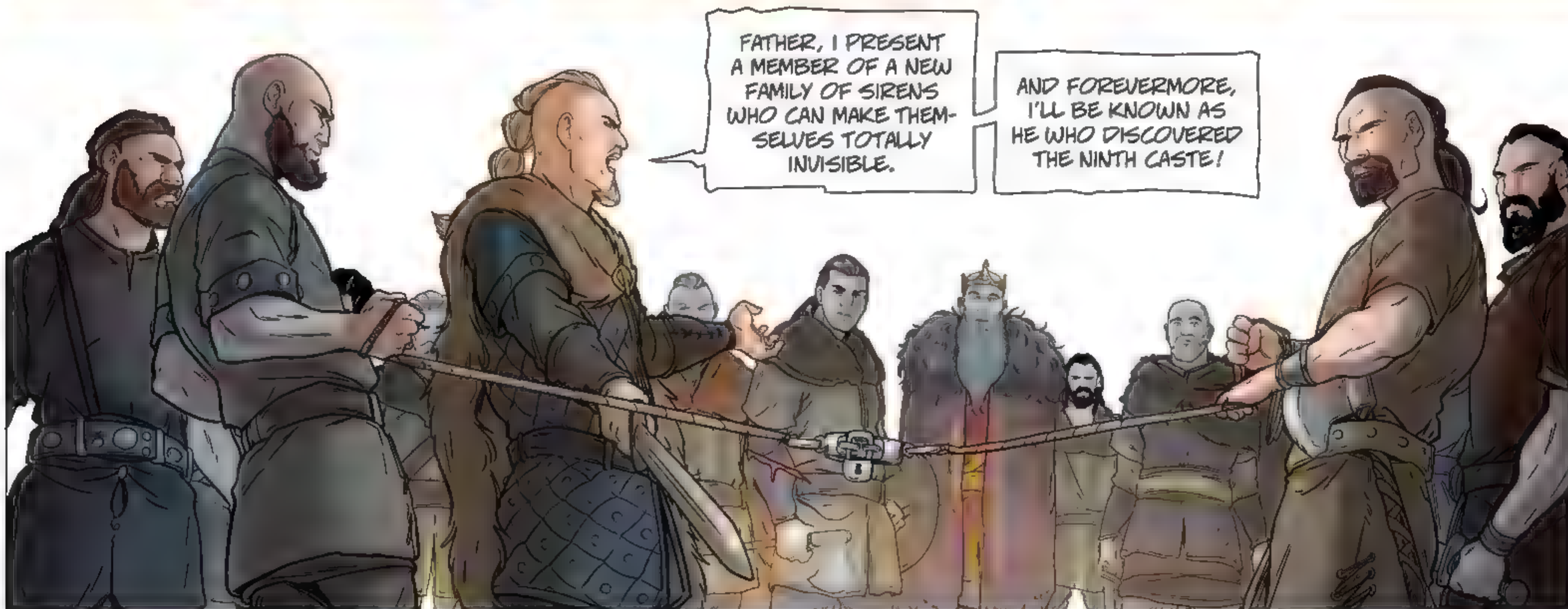
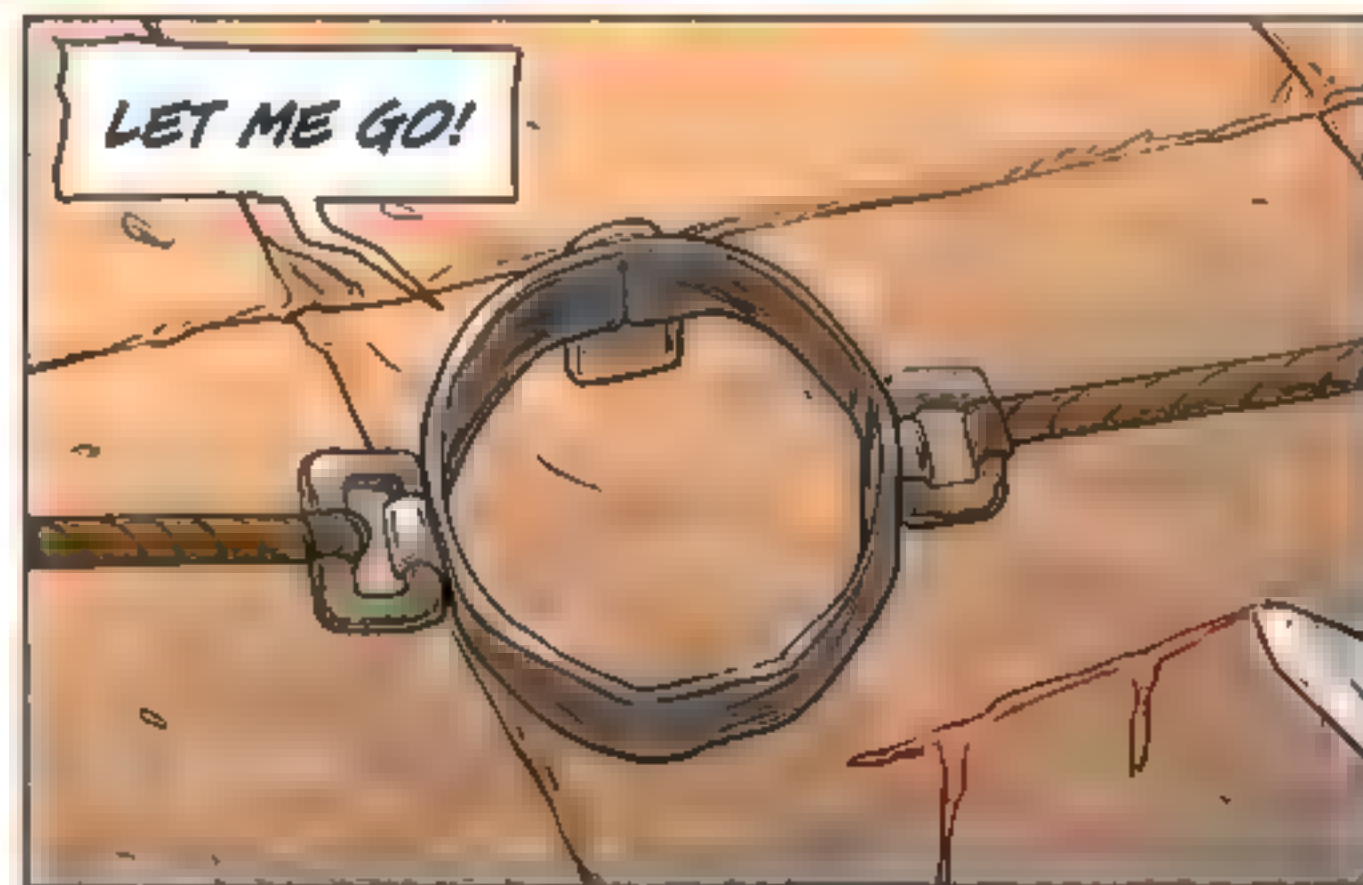
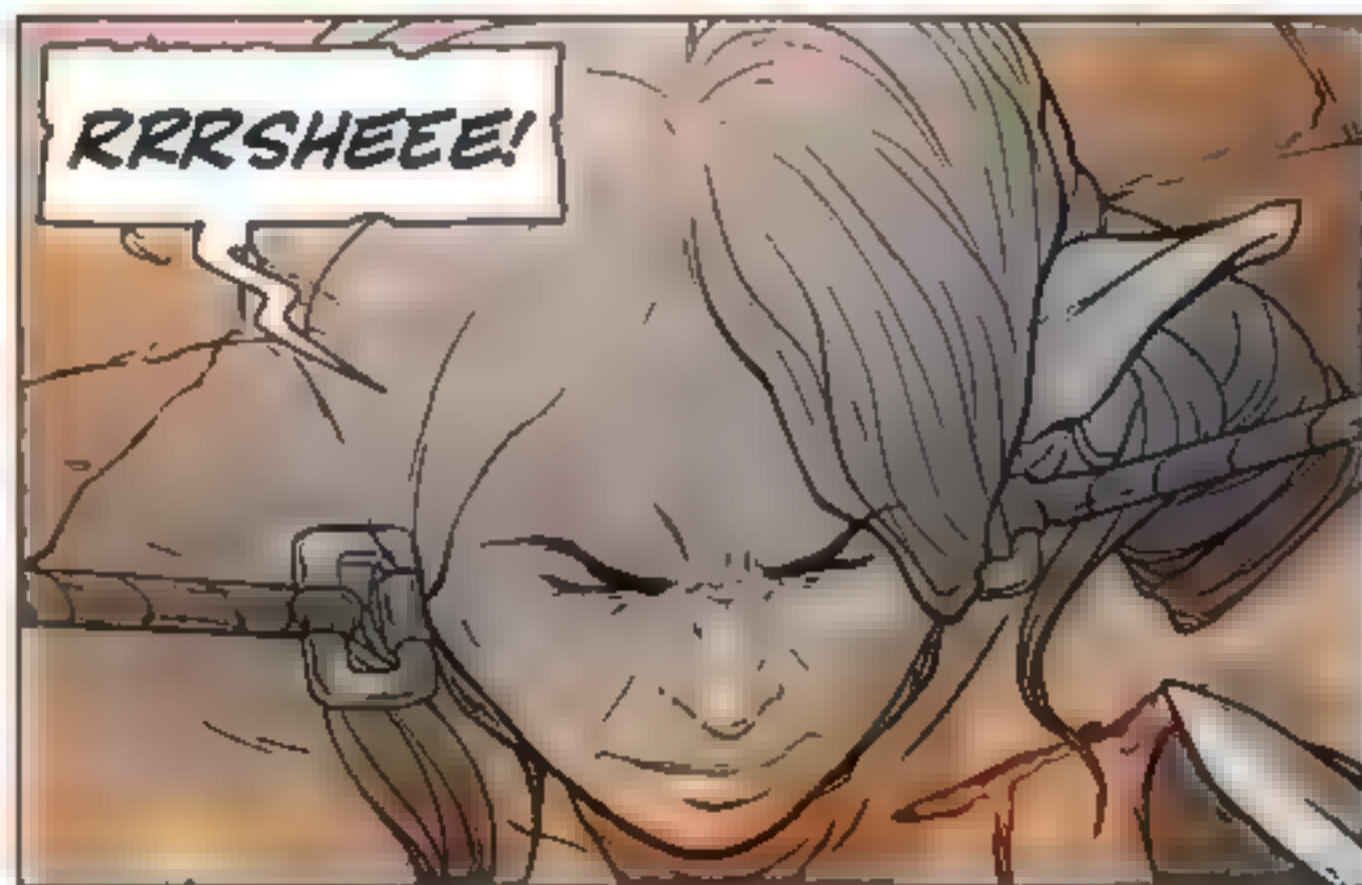
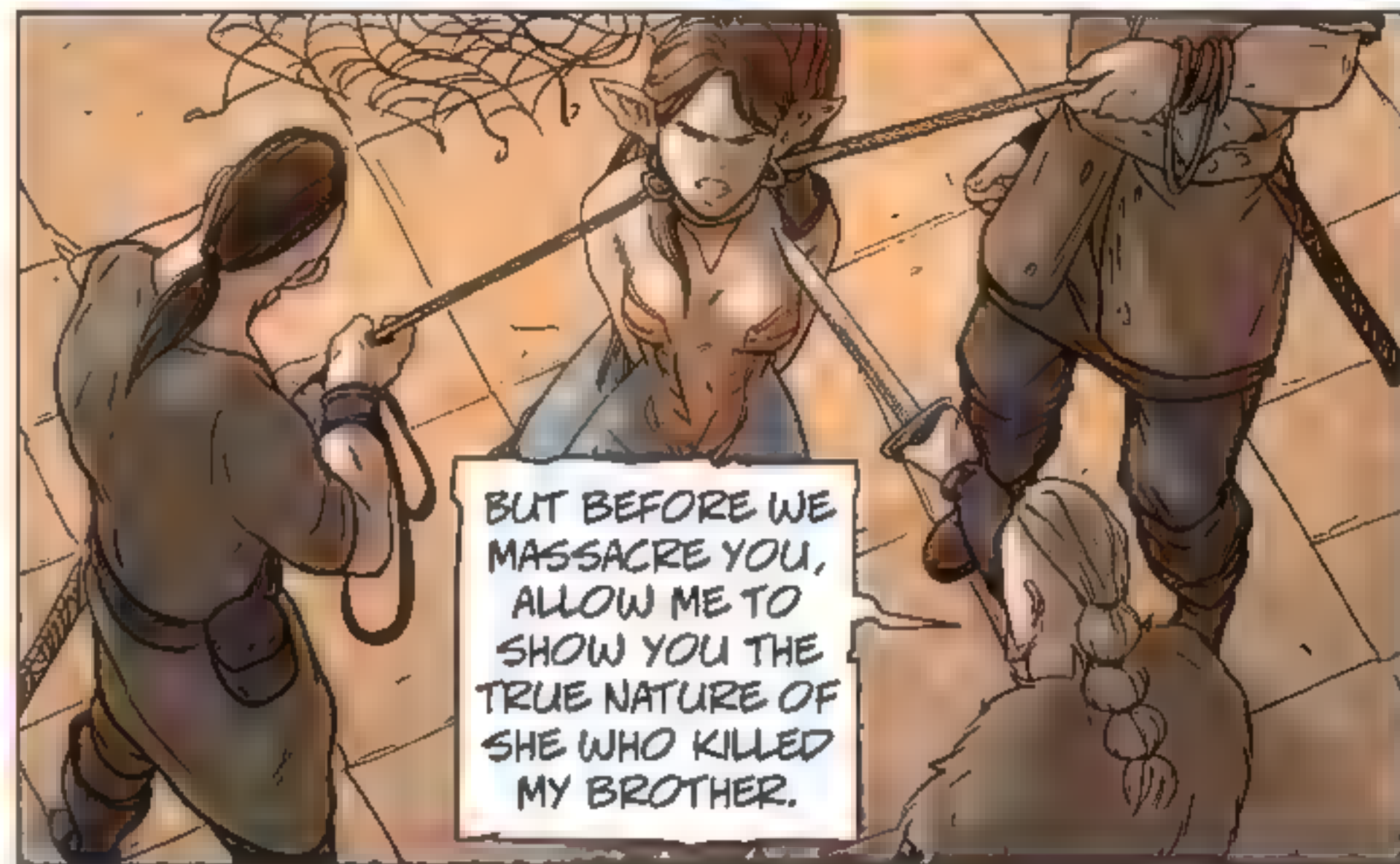




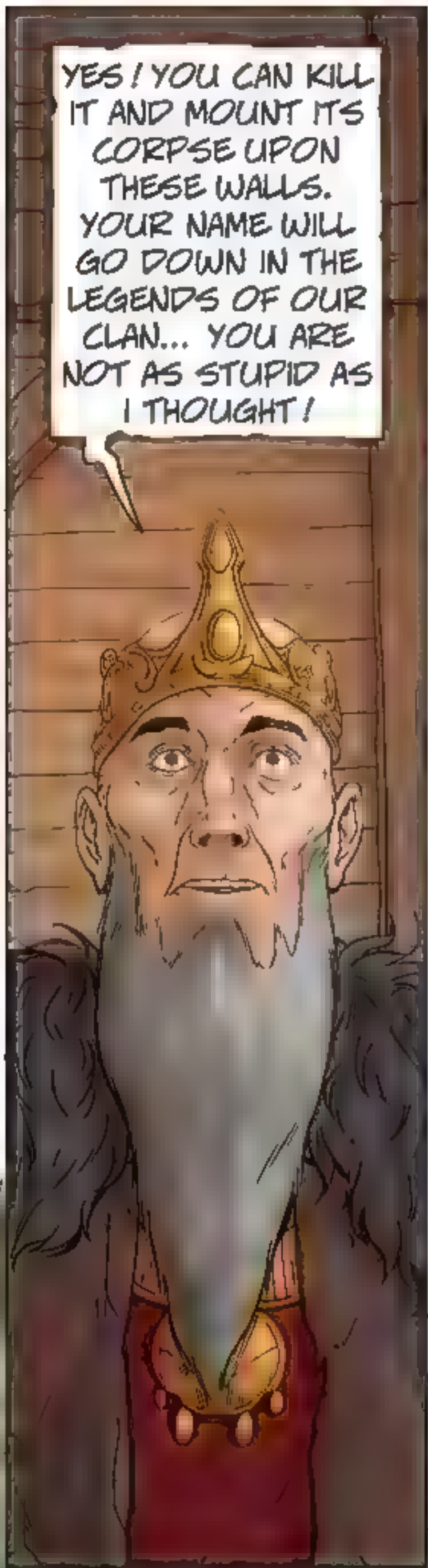
DID YOU NOT DREAM OF A PROUD, STRONG SON WHO COULD STAND UP TO YOU? MY BROTHER, WHOM YOU CONSIDERED SO HEROIC, WAS FORNICATING WITH A SIREN!



THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRUE. BUT SINCE I TOSSED THEM GUNNAR'S HEAD, THE MEN HAVE CHOSEN ME AS THEIR NEW LEADER.







YES! YOU CAN KILL IT AND MOUNT ITS CORPSE UPON THESE WALLS. YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN THE LEGENDS OF OUR CLAN... YOU ARE NOT AS STUPID AS I THOUGHT!

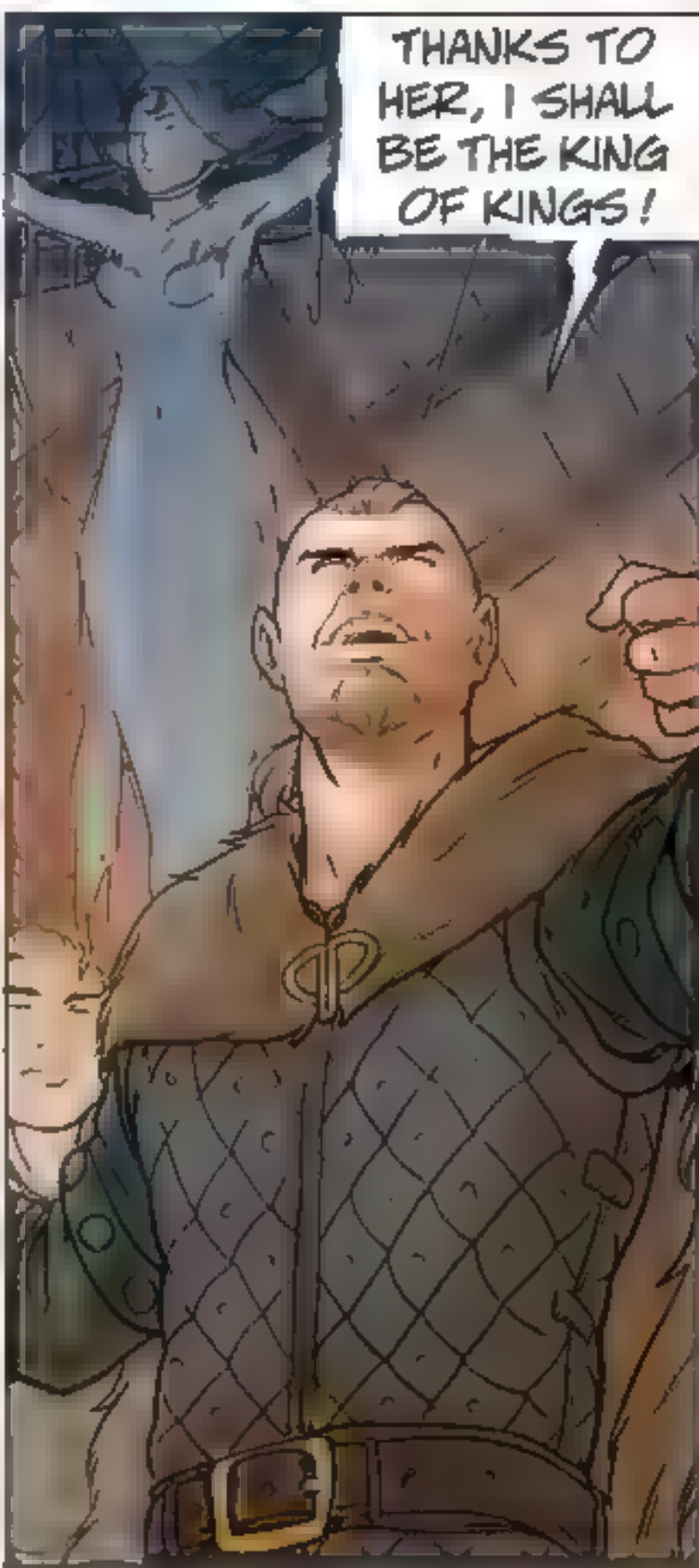


YOU AND YOUR STUFFED CORPSES! YOU'RE EVEN MORE STUPID THAN I IMAGINED.



NO, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL HER... KEEPING HER ALIVE AND TRAINING HER WILL MAKE HER PRICELESS!

WITH SUCH POWERS ON MY SIDE, I'LL WIPE ALL MY ENEMIES OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH AND RULE OVER THEIR TERRITORIES.



THANKS TO HER, I SHALL BE THE KING OF KINGS!



RRUMBLE!

?!



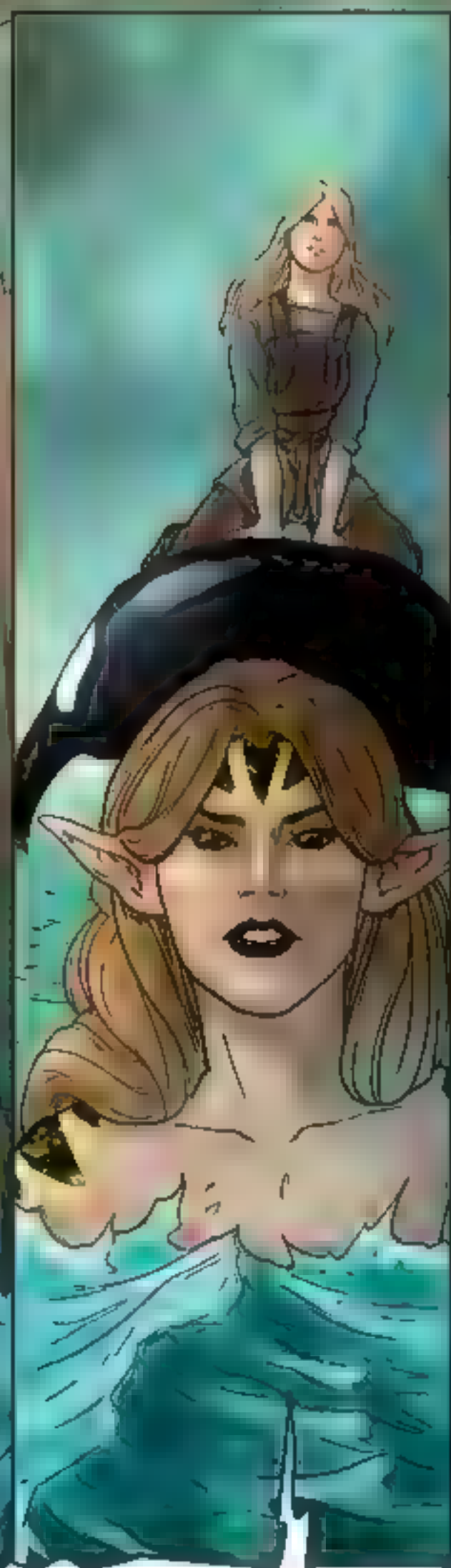
GIGANTIC WAVES HAVE JUST BURST THROUGH THE RAMPARTS!

AND SIRENS ARE ATTACKING...



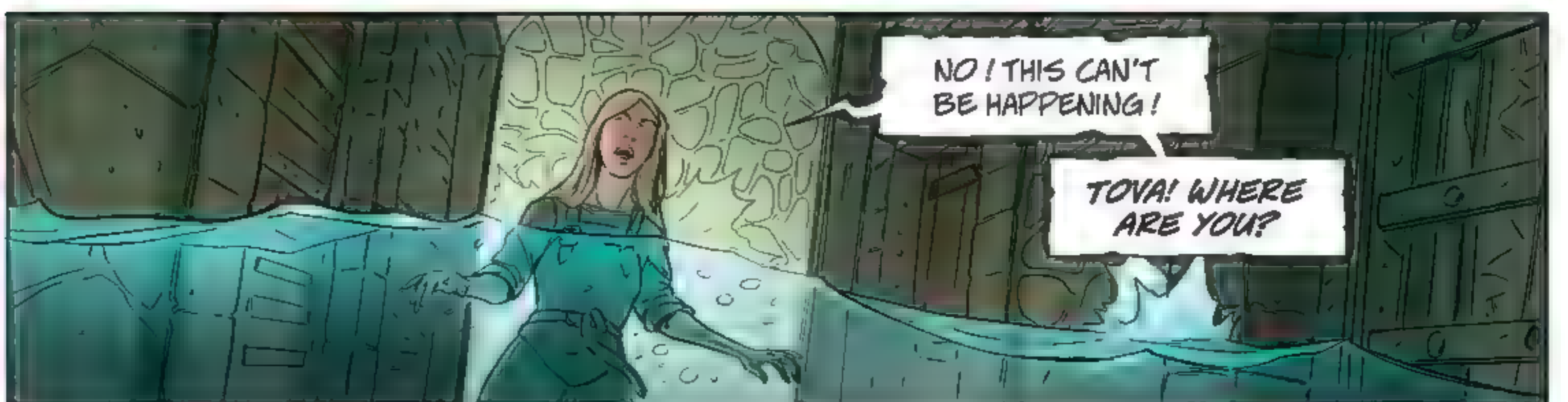
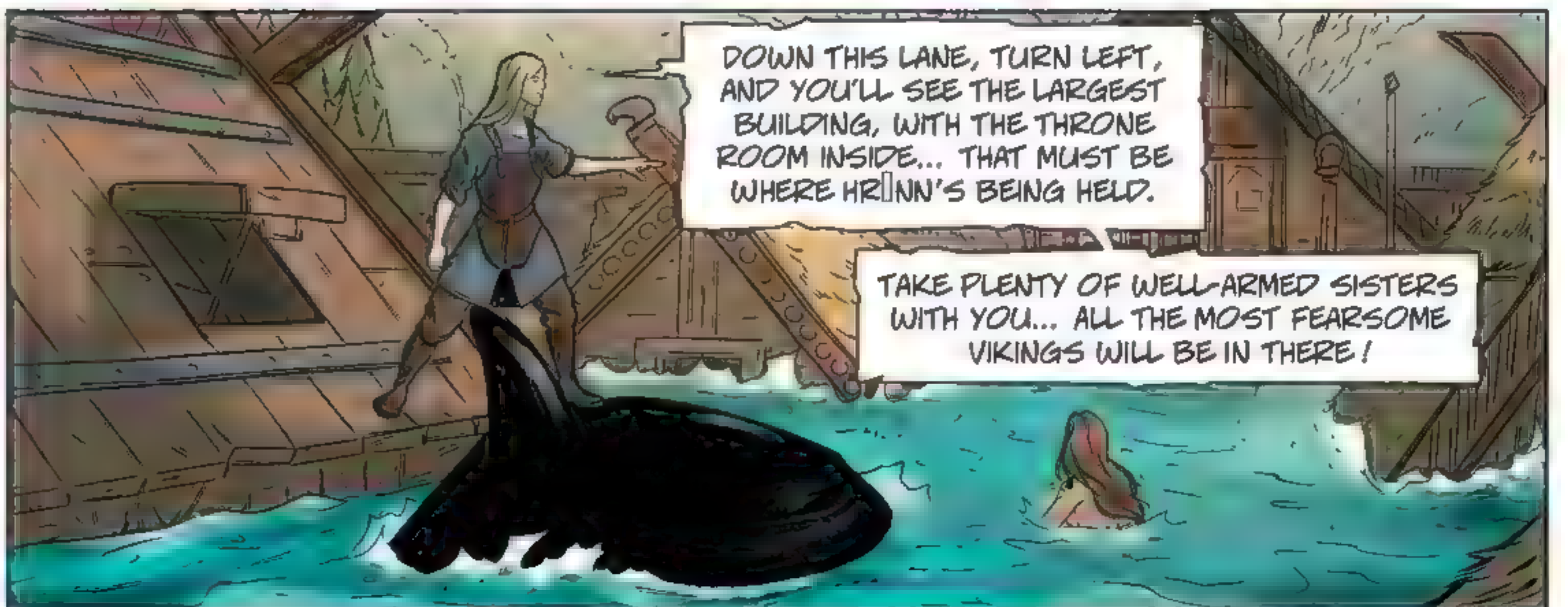
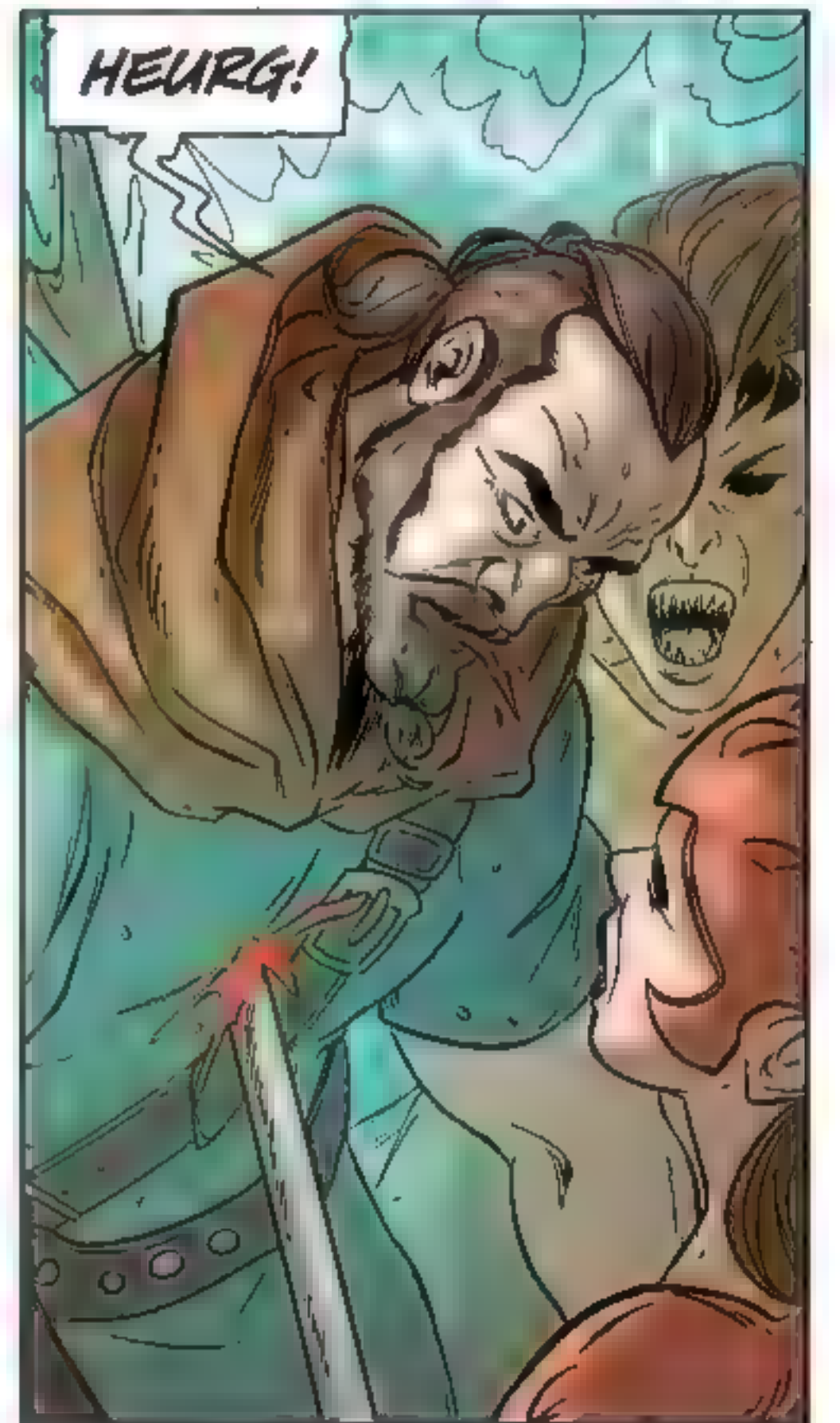
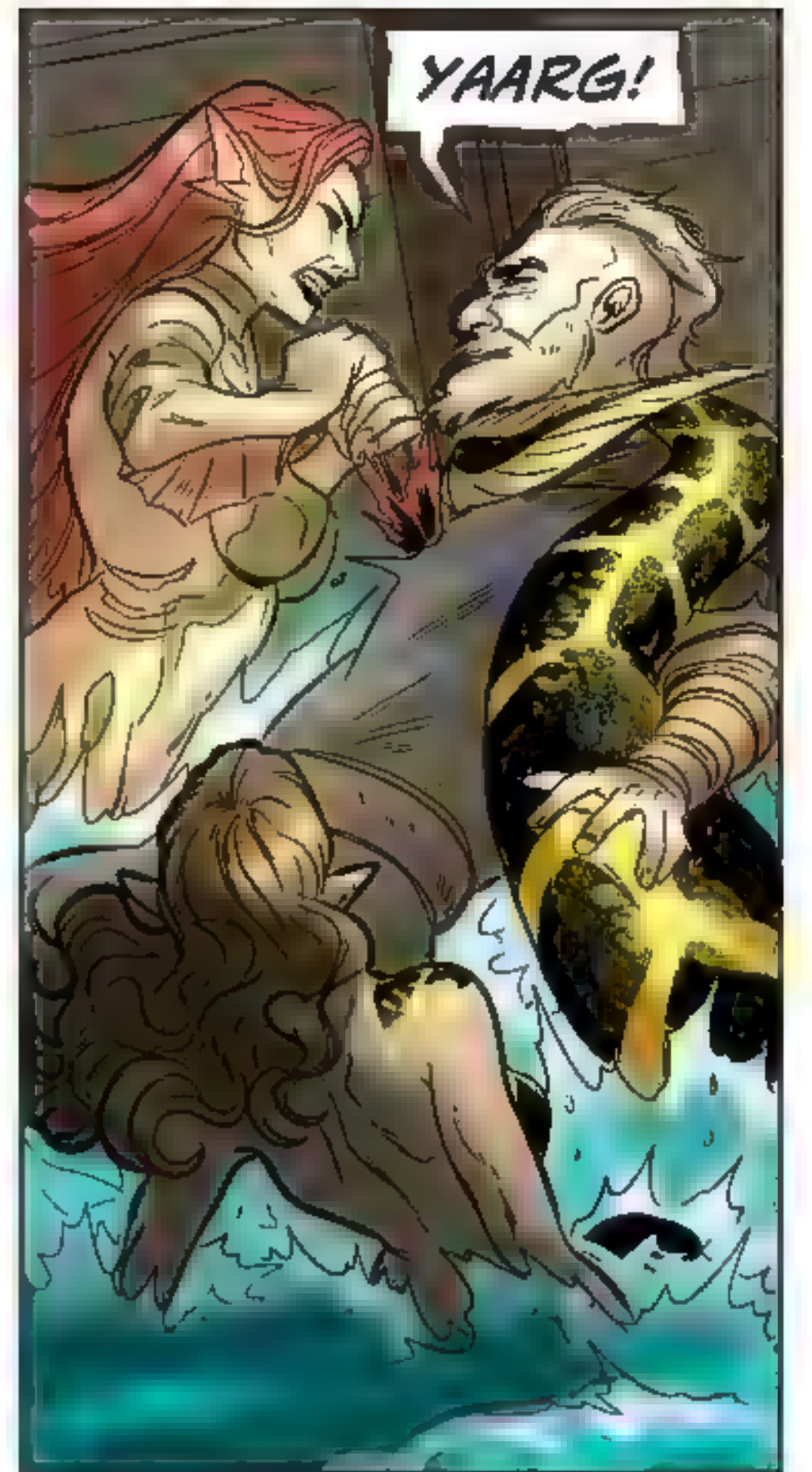
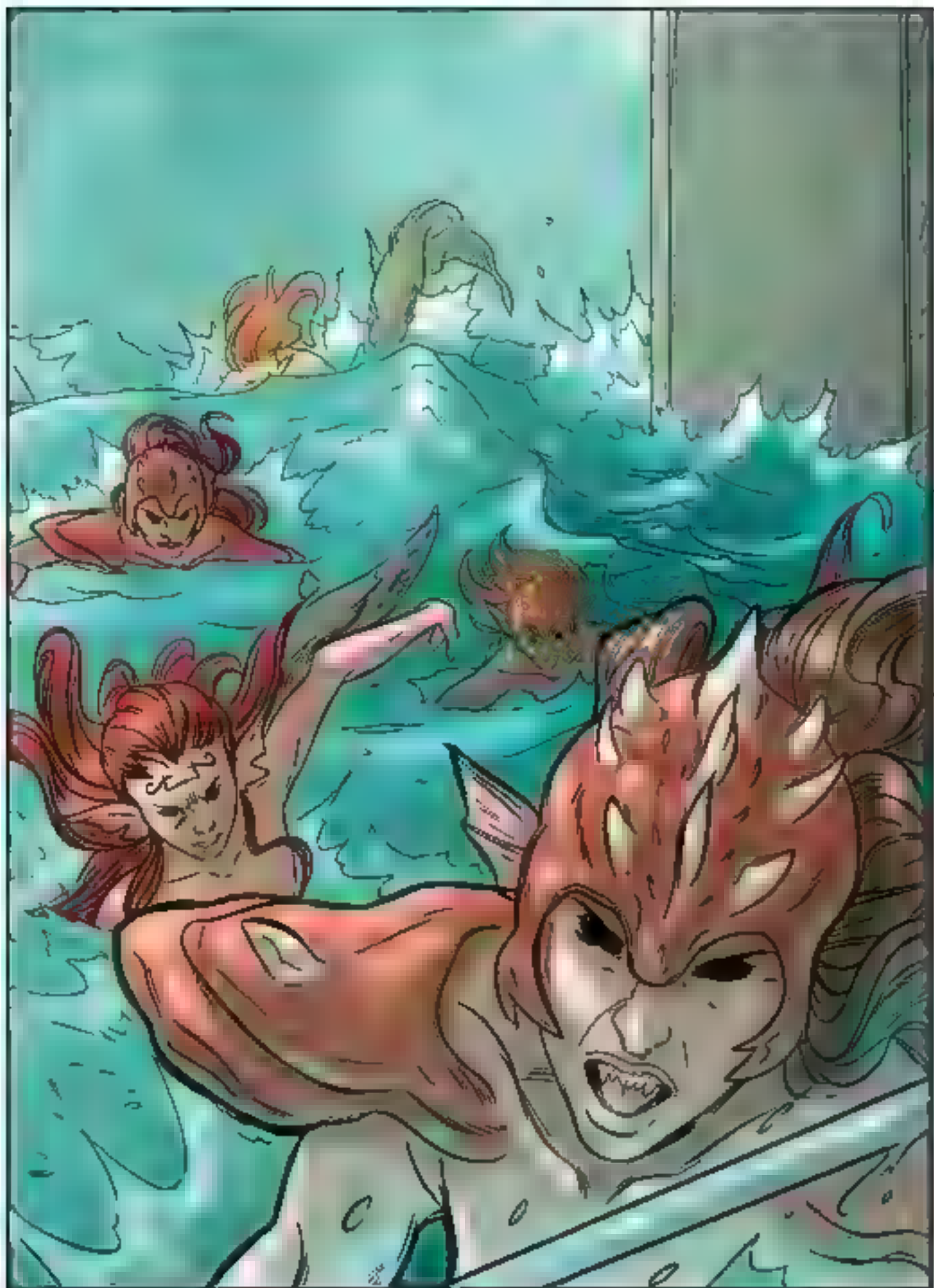
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE SEA WAS CALM JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO!"

"IT'S... THE SIRENS! HOW ARE THEY DOING IT?"

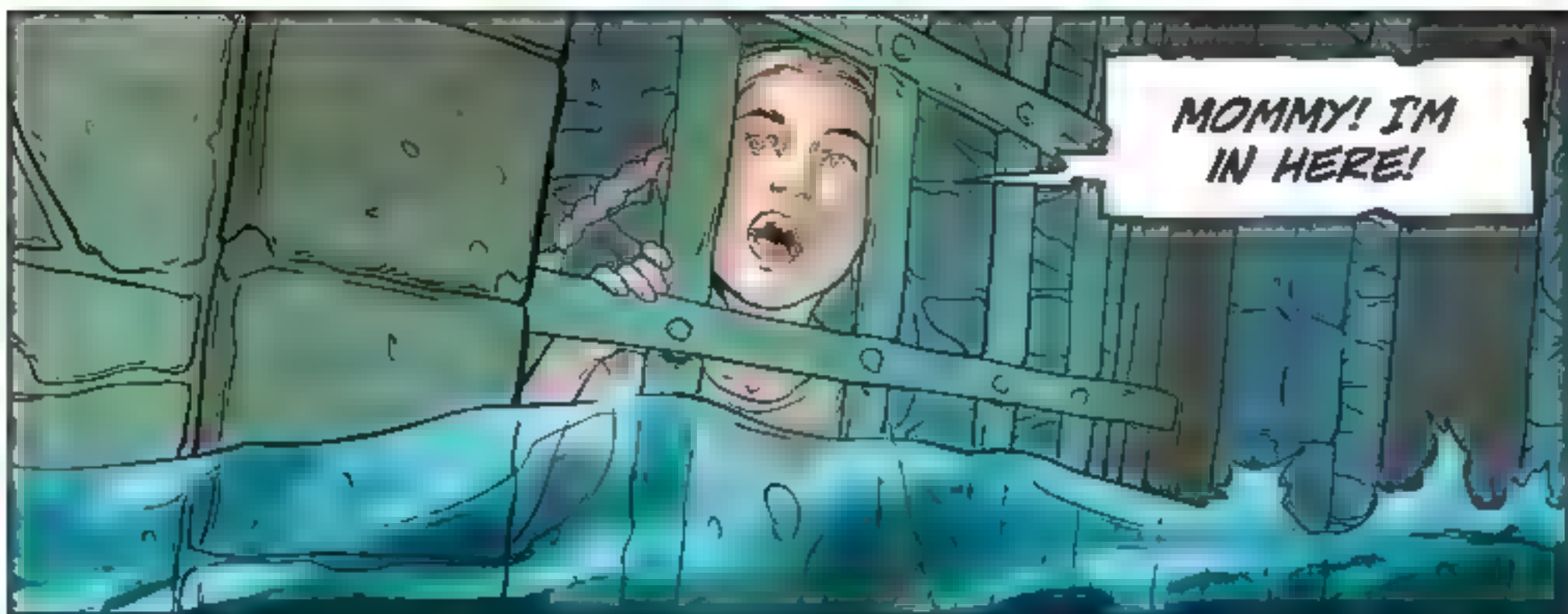


I AM A DAUGHTER OF KOLGA, "THE RAGING SEA!" LIKE ALL OF MY SISTERS, I HAVE INHERITED HER POWER OVER THE FORCES OF NATURE.

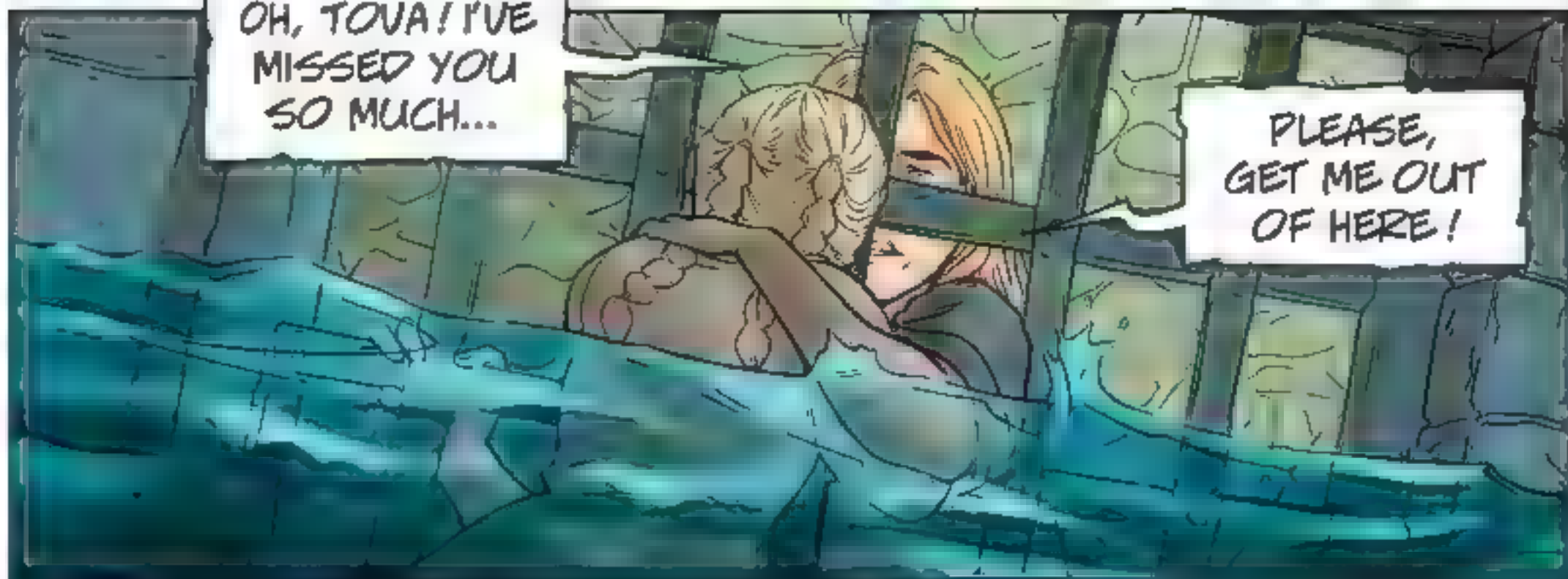






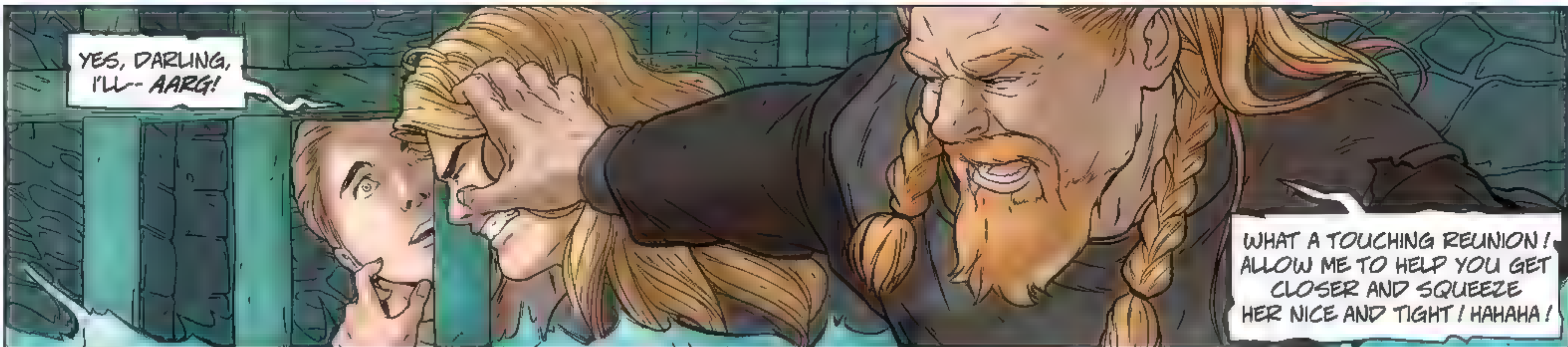


MOMMY! I'M  
IN HERE!



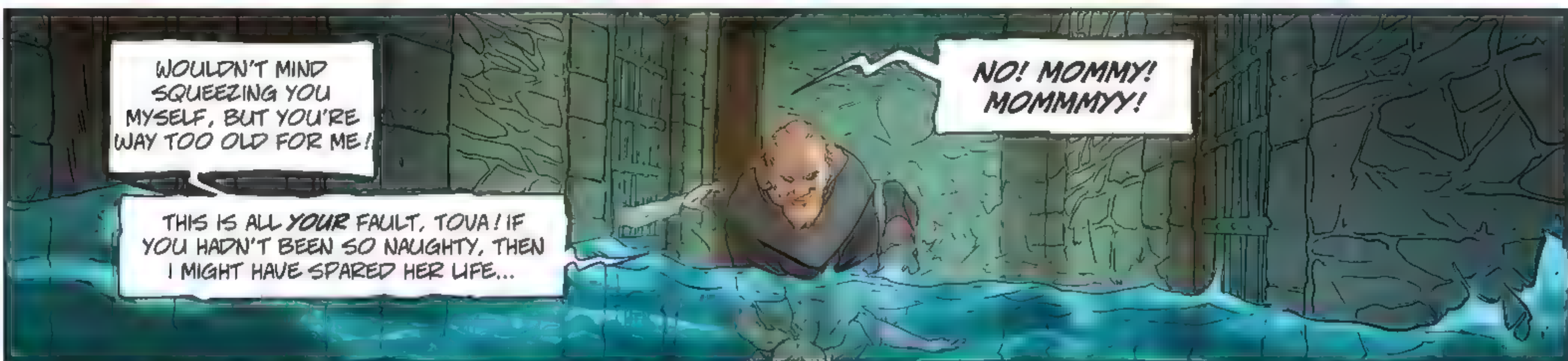
OH, TOVA! I'VE  
MISSED YOU  
SO MUCH...

PLEASE,  
GET ME OUT  
OF HERE!



YES, DARLING,  
I'LL-- AARG!

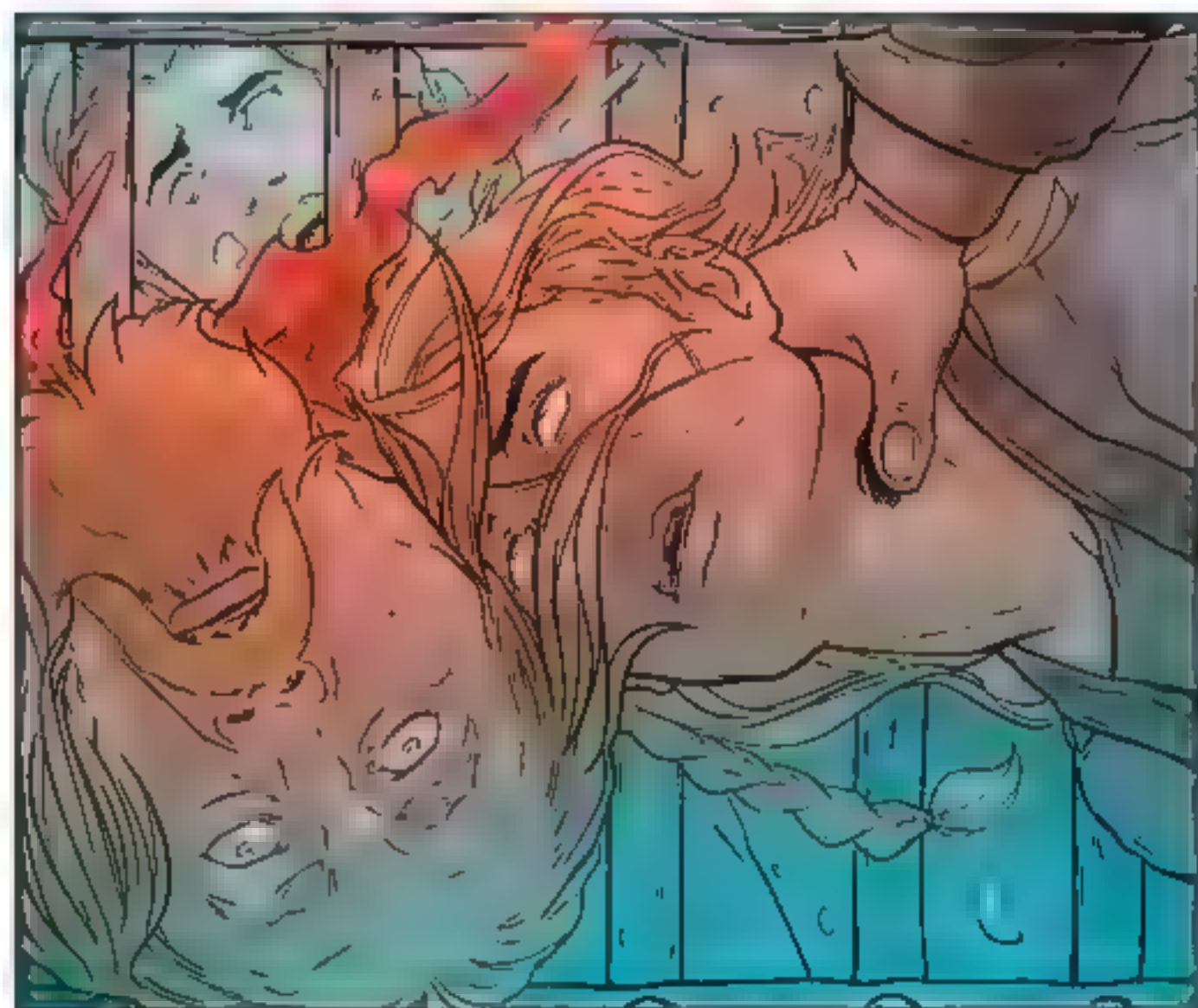
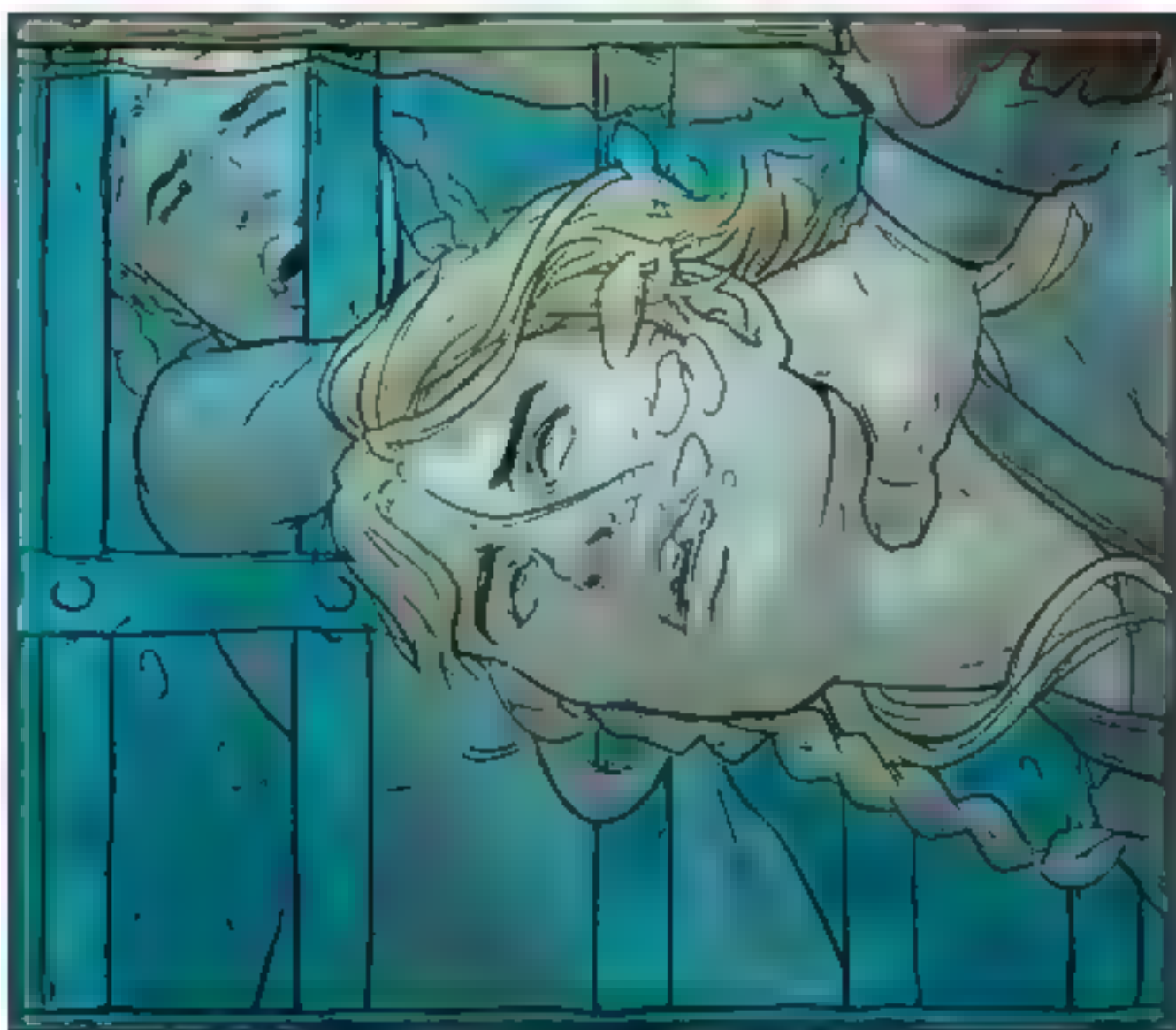
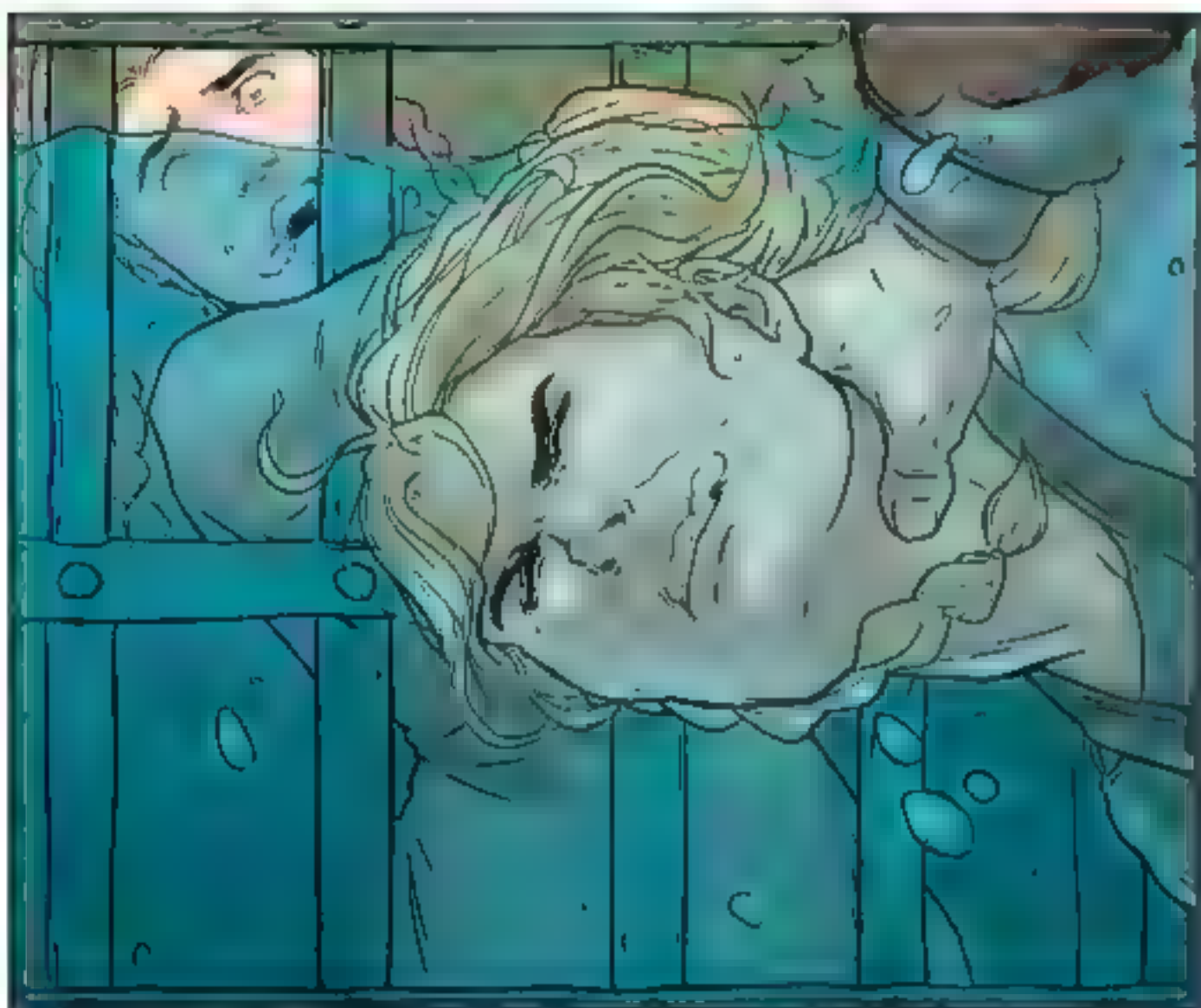
WHAT A TOUCHING REUNION!  
ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU GET  
CLOSER AND SQUEEZE  
HER NICE AND TIGHT! HAHHA!



WOULDN'T MIND  
SQUEEZING YOU  
MYSELF, BUT YOU'RE  
WAY TOO OLD FOR ME!

NO! MOMMY!  
MOMMMYY!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, TOVA! IF  
YOU HADN'T BEEN SO NAUGHTY, THEN  
I MIGHT HAVE SPARED HER LIFE...



\*KOF\* \*KOF\*

SEE, DIDN'T I  
PROMISE TO SAVE  
YOUR DAUGHTER?



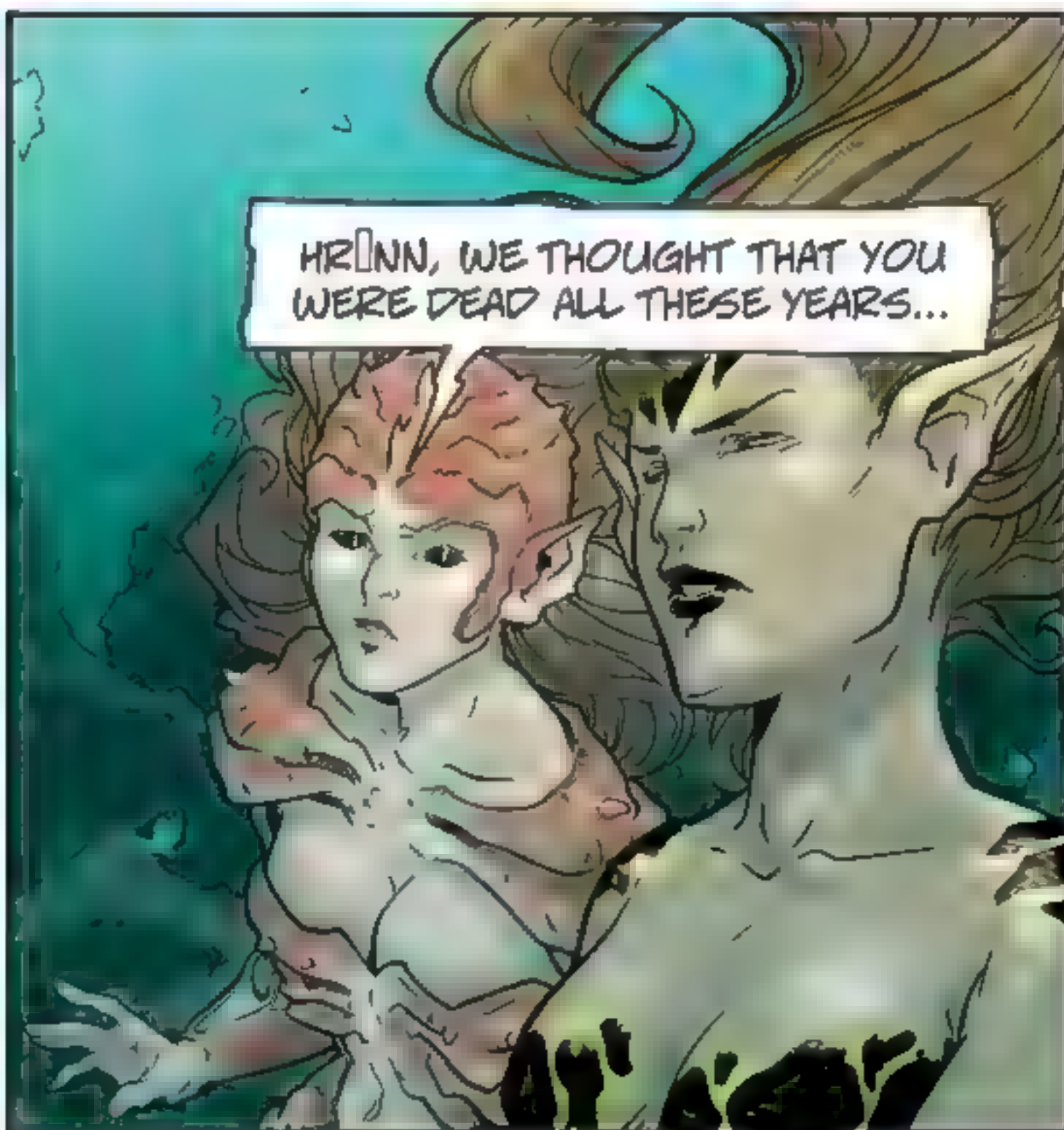
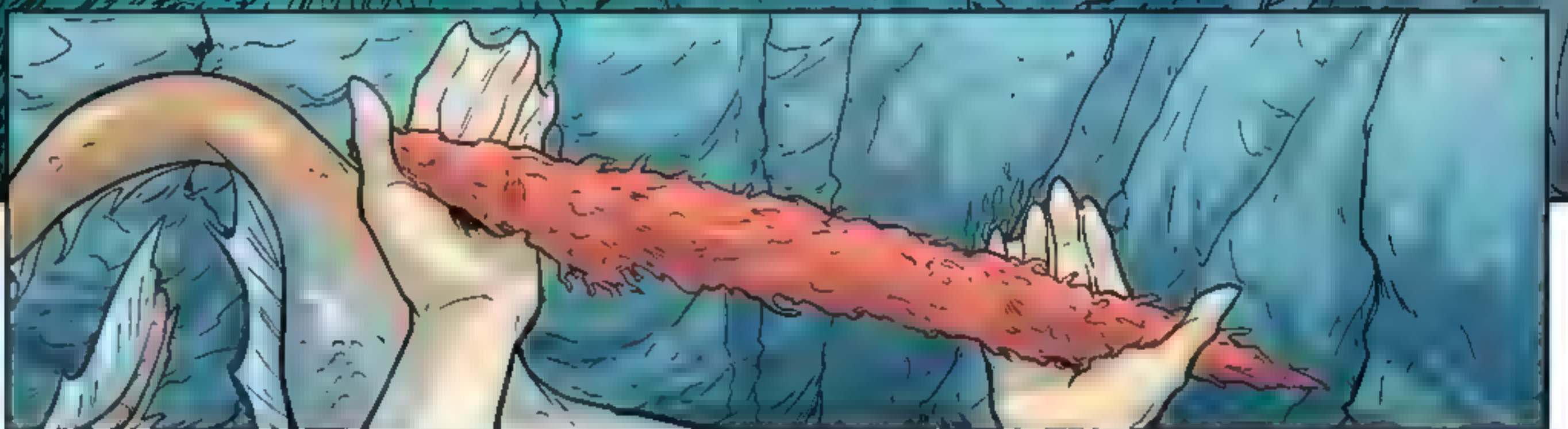
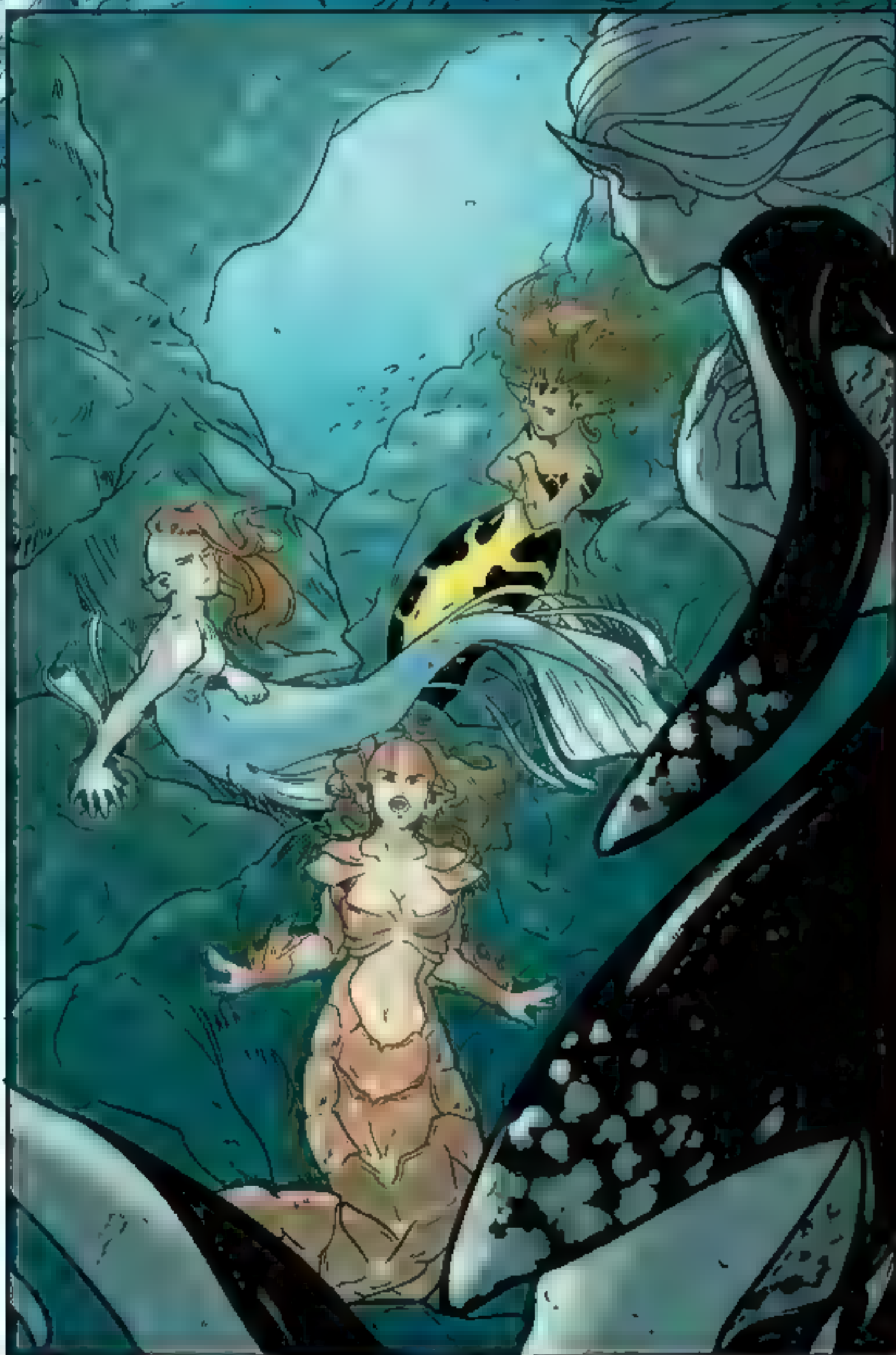
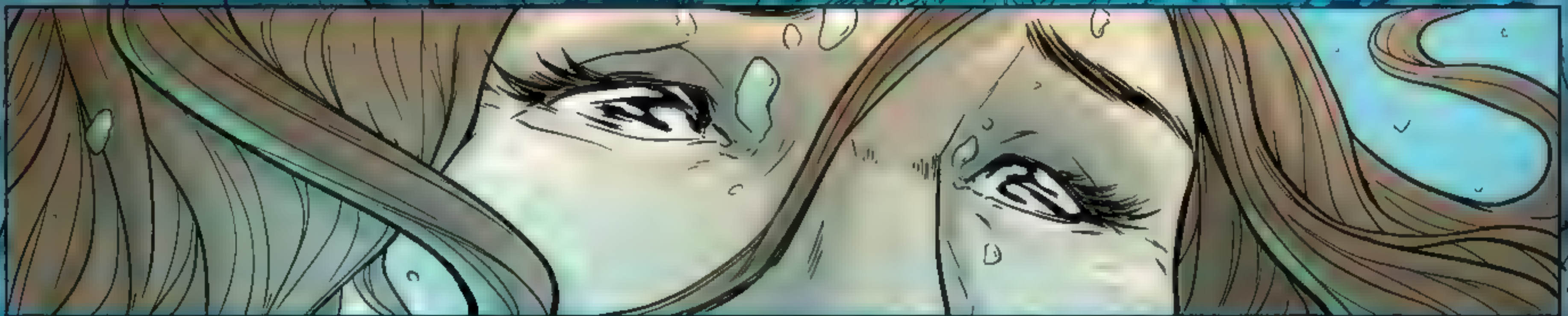
YAARGL!

STAY BACK! I'M YOUR  
NEW KING! YOUR  
SURVIVAL DEPENDS  
ON MY CLEMENCY!

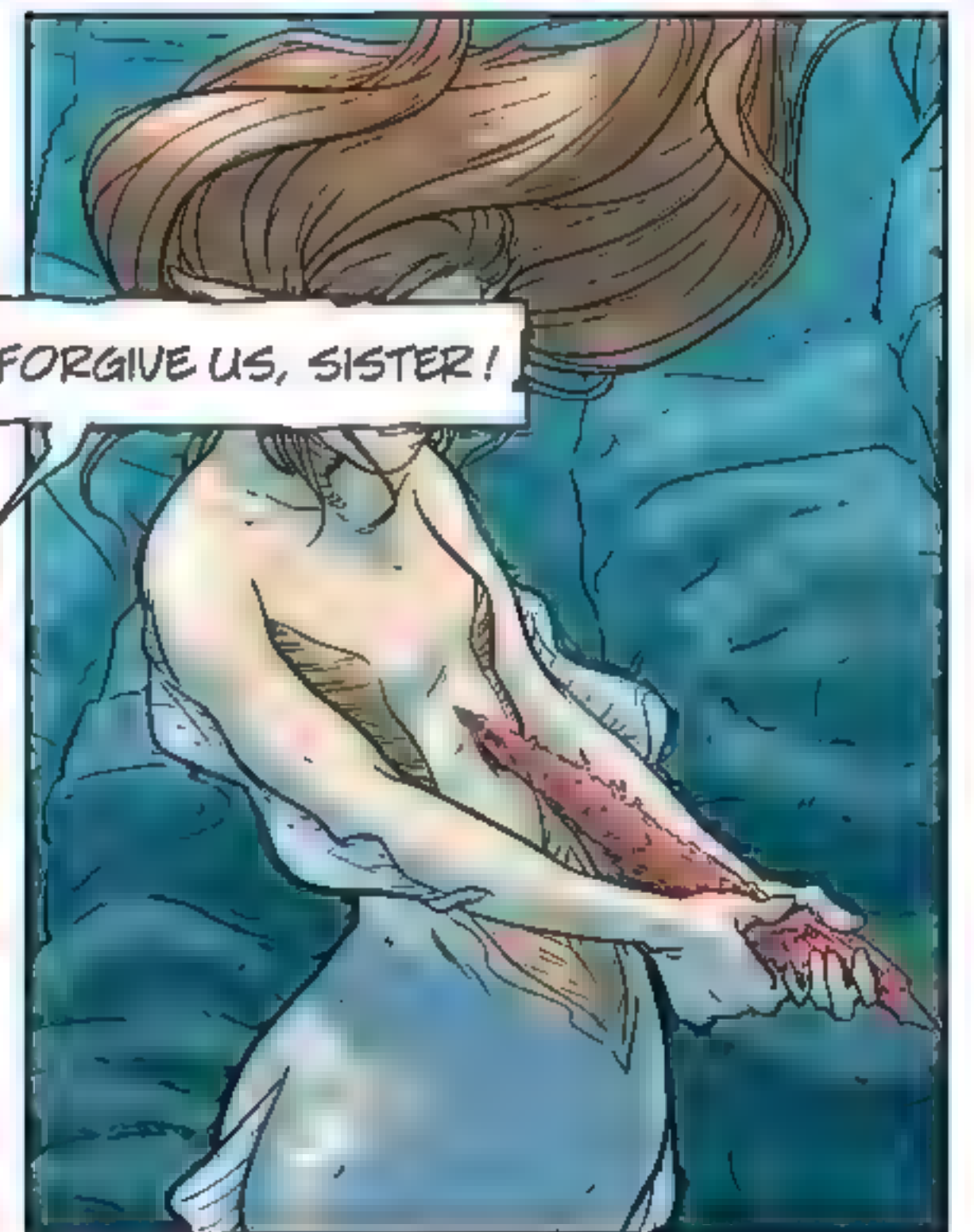
WE CAN COME TO  
AN ARRANGEMENT...

OF COURSE.  
ARRANGE THIS...

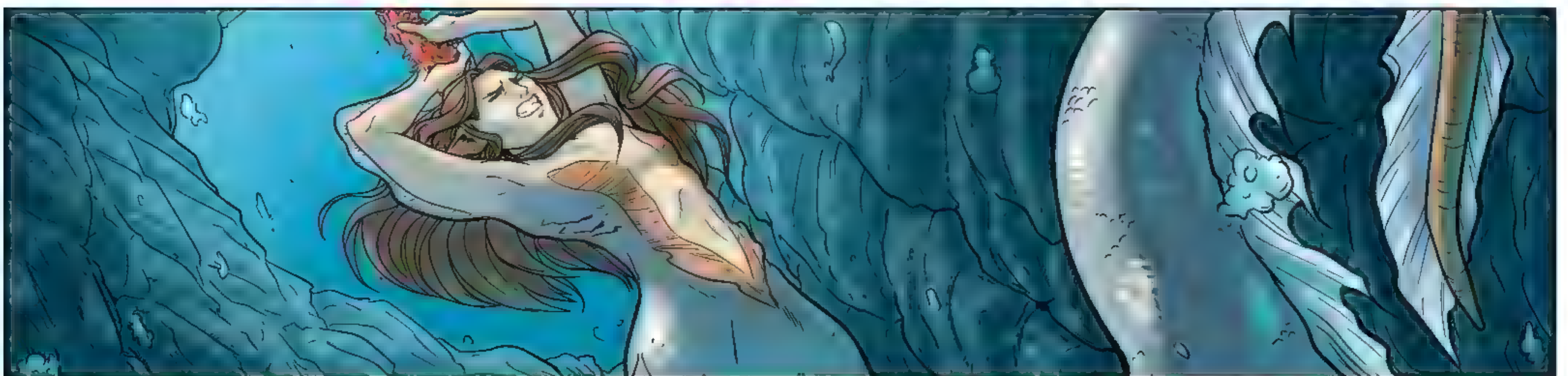
IT IS YOUR ROYAL  
FATE TO BE THE LAST  
OF YOUR CLAN!



HRNN, WE THOUGHT THAT YOU  
WERE DEAD ALL THESE YEARS...



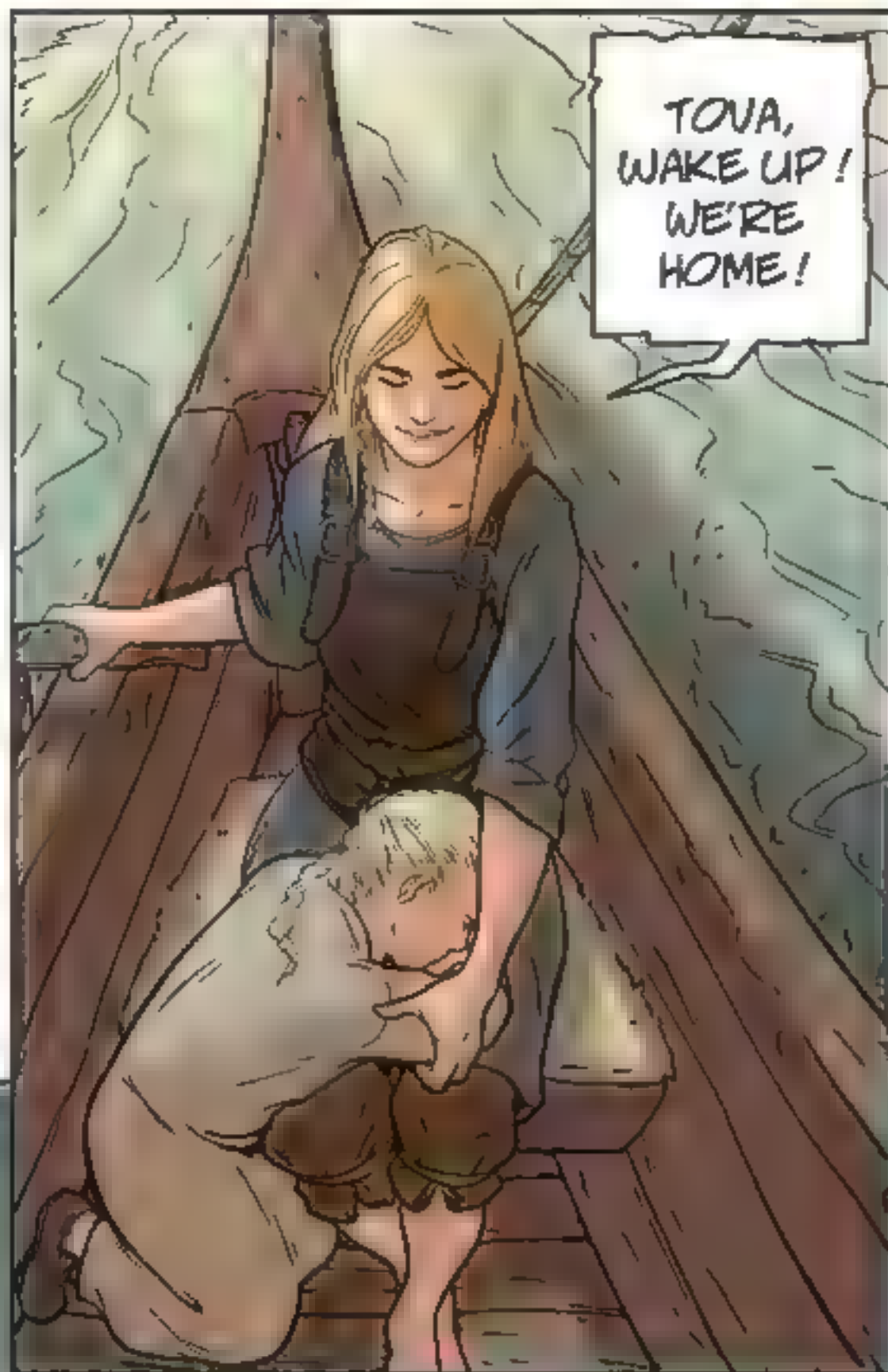
FORGIVE US, SISTER!



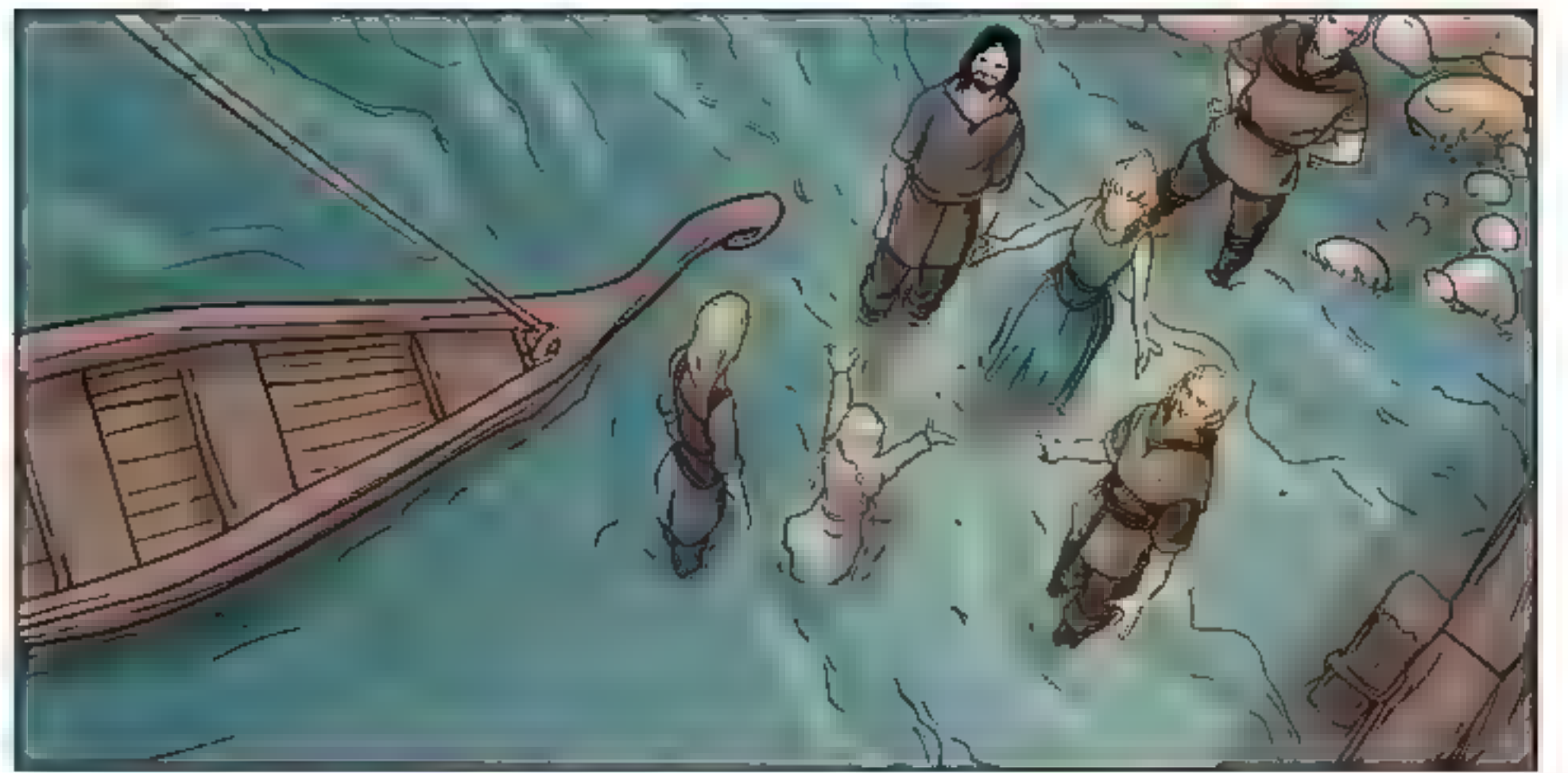




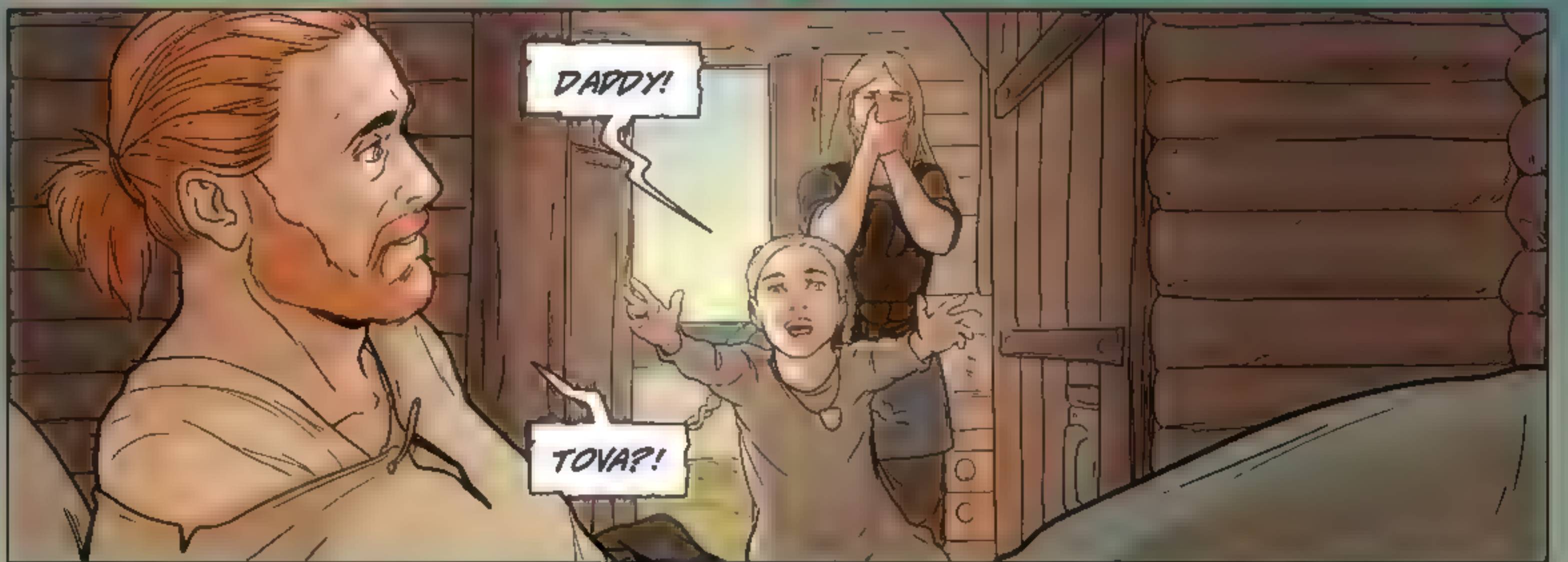
WHAT'S THAT SHIP  
COMING IN?



TOVA,  
WAKE UP!  
WE'RE  
HOME!

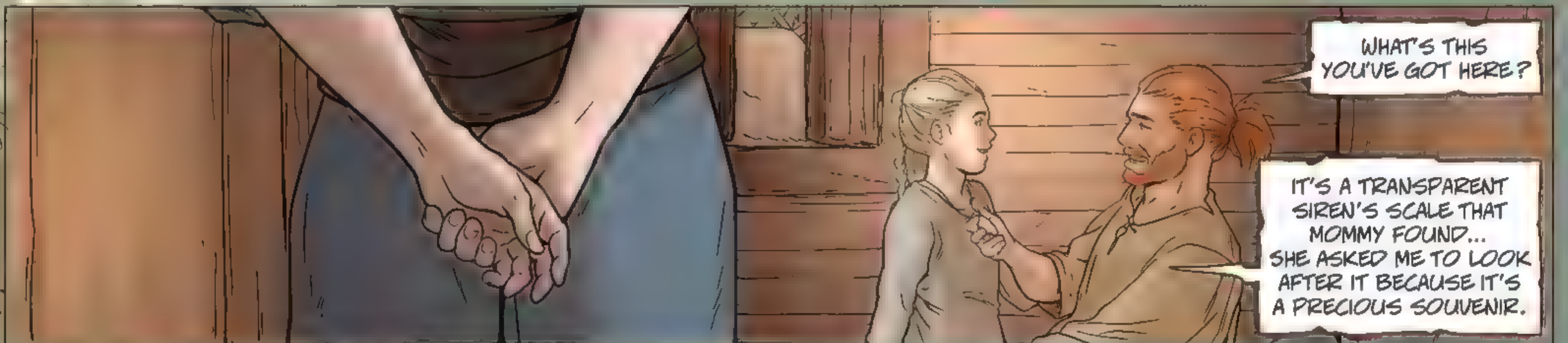


DID VIDAR...  
SURVIVE?



DADDY!

TOVA?!



WHAT'S THIS  
YOU'VE GOT HERE?

IT'S A TRANSPARENT  
SIREN'S SCALE THAT  
MOMMY FOUND...  
SHE ASKED ME TO LOOK  
AFTER IT BECAUSE IT'S  
A PRECIOUS SOUVENIR.



A SOUVENIR?  
WHO FROM?

FROM MY  
GRANDDAD...  
AASBJORN.

END.







# WARRIORS OF THE NORTH SEA

The **KINGDOM OF THE SEA** is divided into nine territories split among the nine castes of **SIRENS**. This kingdom is mostly spread out in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

Our series takes place around the ninth century, when Vikings populated the shores. The **VIKINGS** originated from Scandinavia (today Norway, Sweden, and Denmark) and became famous throughout Northern Europe for their conquest of territories and seemingly unquenchable thirst for expansion. Particularly skilled on the seas, they are formidable sailors whose command of their powerful drakkar ships prove their naval expertise. They are also fierce warriors on land, and these skills make them fearsome invaders known for their brutality. They have a rich culture, including a complex mythology encompassing stories about the exploits of their many gods.

As for the **SIRENS**, they populate the waters of this territory. They are not necessarily bloodthirsty, nor were they always enemies of humans—if they attack ships, it is usually to feed their male counterparts, indispensable for their reproduction, or because they covet wealth. They are divided into nine castes, each descended from one of the nine mermaid daughters of **RÁN** and **AEGIR**, the ultimate rulers of the seas. Each caste possesses a particular gift or power transmitted by the caste's mother mermaid. Sirens are sometimes mistaken for **JINNS**, snake-women of the eastern seas that resemble Sirens but for their longer tails. Jinns and Sirens are enemies.

**NEWTs**, for their part, hate humans. The male half of the Siren race, they hide within the depths of the abyss. They are very fond of human flesh, but because their evolution prevents them from approaching the seas' surface, they require the Sirens to bring them earthly creatures as sacrifices (preferably Vikings) before they will impregnate them.

## THE RULERS OF THE SEAS AND THEIR NINE DAUGHTERS



**AEGIR**

### SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS.

This giant personification of the sea can turn into a giant octopus. Usually, he looks like a half-human, half-octopus creature. While he is married to **RÁN**, it is unclear if he is the biological father of the nine Sirens since he is not a Newt. He lives in a palace made entirely of gold and riches stolen from the Vikings. His faithful servant, **ELDIR**, obeys his every command.

Descendants: The nine mother sirens.



**RÁN**

### SOVEREIGN OF THE EMPIRE OF THE DROWNED.

Rán is the last surviving member of an ancient species of Siren. Instead of the more common fish tail, her lower half resembles a large jellyfish. She has a rune on her neck as a symbol of her gift of magic. She can speak to the drowned dead who make up her kingdom. She often disagrees with her husband, **AEGIR**.

Descendants: The nine mother sirens.





## BLODUGHADDA

aka "The Siren with Blood-Colored Hair"

**SUPERNATURALLY GIFTED WITH MAGICS THAT INCLUDE ILLUSIONS. THESE POWERS ARE MAINLY USED TO BEWITCH THE VIKINGS.**

Blodughadda is the most mischievous of the nine sisters and takes a malicious pleasure in teasing her sisters, who consider her particularly immature. Nonetheless, she is her father's favorite. Like her mother, she is marked on her neck by a divine rune which grants her magical powers.

No known descendants.

## BYLGJA

aka "The Swell"

**ABLE TO MAKE WEAPONS FROM MATERIALS DERIVED EXCLUSIVELY FROM UNDERWATER ELEMENTS (ALGAE, CORAL, FISH SKELETONS...), IN ADDITION TO POSSESSING A TALENT FOR HUNTING.**

Bylgja is suspicious of other castes but—convinced that her extraordinary military skills would make the difference in any battle—she carefully maintains her reputation as a daunting warrior. This is why she is called by her sisters when they unite against the Vikings. For Bylgja, the world of the sea depths and that of the men who navigate on its surface are split evenly, and she is indifferent to the eventual Siren expansion. She acknowledges that men are more difficult to capture than before, even if her caste still manages to do so. Still, she teaches her daughters that Vikings are primarily bloodthirsty creatures.

Descendants: **ARNHILD, KLALIL, OUMNA** + many sirens.



## DUFA

aka "The Diver"

**ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH AND MANIPULATE ALL AQUATIC CREATURES.**

Dufa made the conch to control the **JÖRMUNGAND**, which **ARNHILD** steals from her.

Descendants: Many sirens.







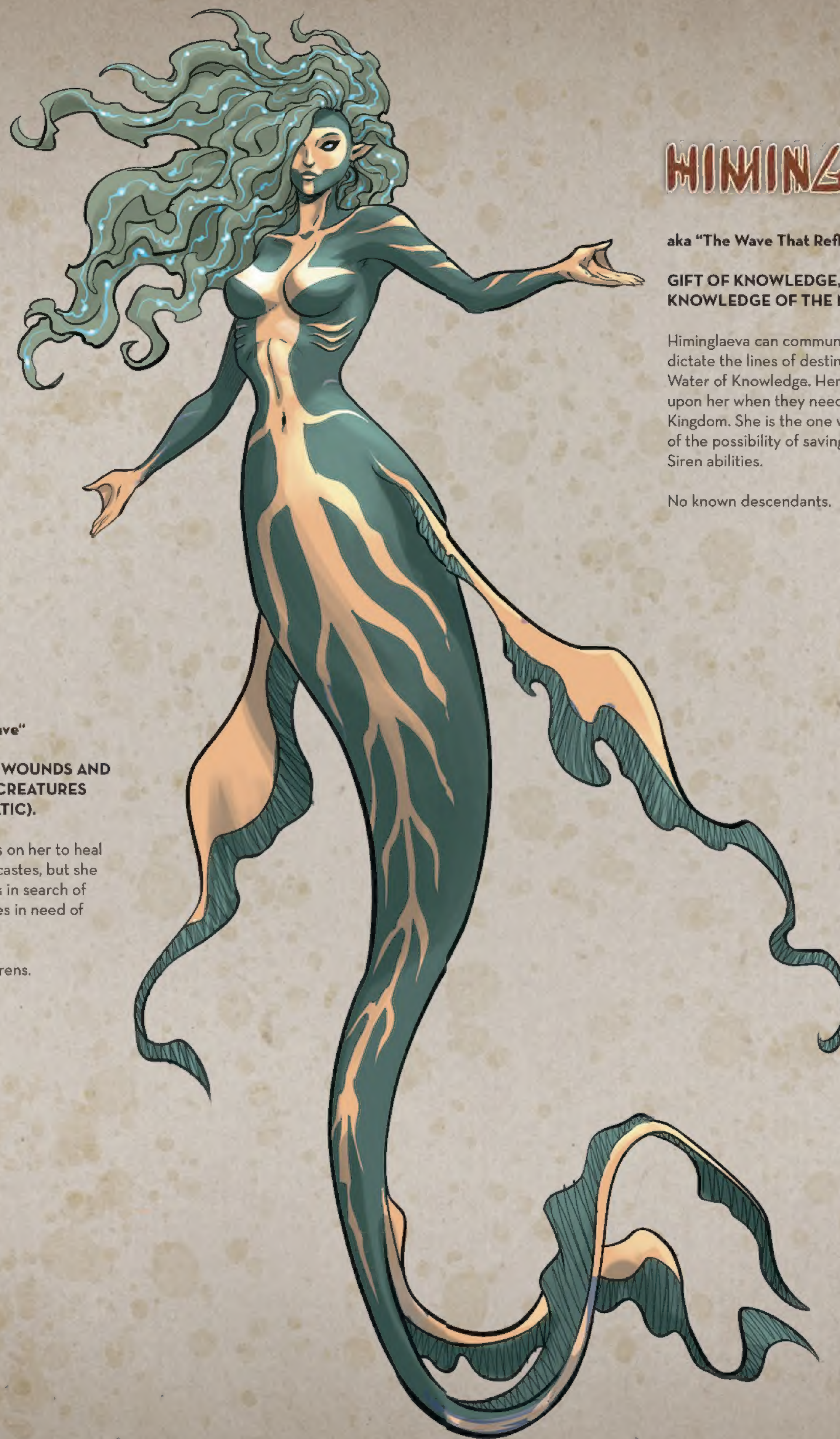
## UDR

aka "The Foaming Wave"

**ABLE TO HEAL THE WOUNDS AND ILLNESSES OF ALL CREATURES (HUMAN AND AQUATIC).**

Udr's family often calls on her to heal members of the nine castes, but she also travels the waters in search of other aquatic creatures in need of healing.

Descendants: Many sirens.



## HIMING-LAEVA

aka "The Wave That Reflects in the Sky"

**GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF THE NINE KINGDOMS.**

Himinglaeva can communicate with the Norns (who dictate the lines of destiny) through the Mirror of the Water of Knowledge. Her sisters do not hesitate to call upon her when they need information about the Sea Kingdom. She is the one who informs **BLODUGHADDA** of the possibility of saving **GILDWIN** by sacrificing her Siren abilities.

No known descendants.

## HEFRING

aka "The Surge"

**ABLE TO TAKE ON A HUMAN APPEARANCE IN ORDER TO BREATHE AND LIVE OUT OF WATER—PROVIDED SHE REGENERATES IN SEAWATER AT LEAST ONCE A DAY.**

When Hefring and her daughters transform, their mermaid tail gives way to a pair of human legs, tricking Vikings into seeing them as one of their own. Hefring abandoned her daughter **FREYDIS** when she discovered that the grey streak in **FREYDIS**'s hair meant she was doomed to bring destruction to her caste. Despite this, Hefring could not bring herself to kill her own daughter as she was ordered and instead decided to abandon her to the Vikings.

Descendants: **FREYDIS** + many sirens.







## KOLGA

aka "The Raging Sea"

ABLE TO CONTROL THE WEATHER WITHIN A RADIUS OF SEVERAL MILES. CAN ALSO CAUSE STORMS, TSUNAMIS, CYCLONES, OR TORRENTIAL RAINS.

Kolga always answers the call when her sisters ask her to stand up to the Vikings.

Descendants: **ODRUNN** + many sirens.



## HRÖNN

aka "The Rolling Wave"

**GIFT OF INVISIBILITY AND CAMOUFLAGE.**

Hrönn has been considered the most intelligent and mature of the nine sirens since childhood, mostly thanks to her power of invisibility, which enabled her to listen to the conversations of adults unobserved. Her sisters rejected her because her abilities scare them. Because of this, Hrönn spent most of her life on the sidelines, even going so far as to fake her own death as an adult. This allowed her to watch over the marine world from the shadows.

No known descendants.



## DRÖFN

aka "The Wave"

**PSYCHIC POWERS: CAN ANTICIPATE THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS.**

Dröfn is the one who warns **HEFRING** that her daughter **FREYDIS** is cursed. She also joins her sisters in the war against the men of Hardeknud.

Descendants: Many sirens.





## FREYDIS

Raised as a true Viking, Freydis is in fact a Siren from the caste capable of taking on a human appearance. Abandoned as a child by her biological mother, **HEFRING**, because of a lock of silver hair showing that she carried a curse, she developed a fierce hatred for Sirens and a deep attachment to her adopted people. She is a capable warrior, agile in battle, and a fine strategist. She seems destined for a life of adventure and conquest.

Biological mother: **HEFRING**

Adoptive mother: **OLEIV**

Adoptive father: **REIDOLF**

Love interest: **SVEIN**